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The Memoirs relate to the last eighteen years of the eighteenth century, a period in-cluding the administration of Lord North, the close of the American War, the formation of the coalition ministry, and the breaking up of the Whig party, the King's first illness, and the contests on the Regency question, the French Revolution, and the War with France, the Irish Rebellion, and the legisla-tive union between Great Britain and Ireland. On the hidden movements and secret history of some of these great public events, considerable light is thrown by the correspondence of those who acted a prominent part in the politics of the time. The letters are chiefly

those of the three brothers, George, Thomas, and William Wyndham, sons of the first George Grenville, Secretary of State under Lord Bute, and afterwards Prime Minister from 1763 to 1765-the "Mr. Greenville" of the early days of George III. ('L.G.'1852, p. 82). George Grenville, the younger, succeeded to the title of Earl Temple on the death of his uncle, and was afterwards created Marquis of Buckingham, and was father of the late Duke of Buckingham. He twice filled the office of Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. Thomas Grenville, who died recently at an advanced age, filled several high offices in the state, and accumulated one of the most splendid libraries in the kingdom. Of William Wyndham Grenville, afterwards Lord Grenville, who survived till 1834, a high eulogium is given by Lord Brougham, in his 'Statesmen of the Reign of George III.' His letters to his brother, Lord Temple, constitute the largest portion of these volumes. The correspondence commences in 1782, when Lord North's administration was tottering under the odium of the American War. When the Rockingham cabinet was formed, one of the errliest measures of the new government was te negotiate a peace with America, and Mr. Thomas Grenville was sent to Paris to meet Dr. Franklin. Some of the early letters refer to this mission, and throw light on the state of parties in England, as well as explain certain points hitherto imperfectly understood in the negotiation of the American business:-

"It is clear, from the singular facts revealed in tais Correspondence, that, while an ostensible Minister was dispatched to Paris by the general action of the Government, with the sanction of the King to negotiate terms with the American Minister, Lord Shelburne had taken upon himself to appoint another negotiator, who was not only not to act in concert with Mr. Grenville, but whose clandestine mission seems to have been expressly intended to thwart and embarrass him, and whose appointment was without the approval, or even the knowledge, of the Cabinet. How far the King may have secretly supported Lord Shelburne in this breach of faith with his colleagues, we are left to conjecture; but the intriguing character ascribed to His Majesty by Lord Shelburne himself, justito His Majesty by Lord Shelburne himself, justifies, to some extent, the suspicion that a proceeding so bold and so full of hazard to the Whig Administration, was not adopted upon the sole responsibility of the Minister. Lord Shelburne said of the King, that he 'possessed one art beyond any man he had ever known; for that by the familiarity of his intercourse he obtained your confidence, procured from you your opinion of different public characters, and then availed himself of this knowledge to sow dissensions.' This opinion, just or unjust (and there is no great reason to doubt its justice), was founded upon extensive personal exjustice), was founded upon extensive personal ex-periences, of which this sinister attempt to break up the union of the Cabinet may have been one."

Some of the letters connected with this mission to Paris reveal many personal traits of the characters of the writers, as of Sheridan and Charles James Fox. Sheridan was singularly incautious in his communications, and Mr. Grenville had to send a message that he should be charged to be more careful in what he wrote through the post. He showed considerable shrewdness, nevertheless, in his advices to the ambassador:—

and got a good deal for herself, but has not appeared to have thought of them, however they may have profited in fact, it would certainly give us a great advantage in those sort of arguments and competitions which will arise after a peace; whereas if it appears as a stipulated demand on the part of France that America should be independent, it will for ever be a most handy record and arguit will for ever be a most handy record and argument for the French party in that country to work with; and this, as things stand now, and as far as my poor judgment goes, appears not to be a very difficult thing to have either way. And so these are my politics on that subject for you. * * "There is nothing odd or new to tell you, but that here is a most untimely strange sort of an influenza which every creature catches. You must not mind the badness of my scrawl: and let me

not mind the badness of my scrawl; and let me hear from you. Does Lafayette join your consultation dinners with Franklin, as some of our Roupell intelligence sets forth? I take it for granted the French Ministers will think it a point of spirit to seem rather less desirous of peace since your defeat

in the West?"

It is curious to read of Lafayette and Franklin meeting in these old times. In the postscript of one of Fox's letters he says, "Pray make my best respects to Dr. Franklin, whose letter to me contained some very promising expressions. Assure him that, in spite of all that has happened, he and I are still of the same country." In another letter Fox is mindful of the good wine of France, his partiality for which is not unlessed. his partiality for which is not unknown:-

"I can hardly read Monsieur de Guemené's letter, but wish to have two hundred bottles of the letter, but wish to have two hundred bottles of the champagne, if there is really reason to think it good. By the way, I beg you will remember me to Monsieur de Guemene, and put him in mind of our former acquaintance in the Rue St. Pierre. If the wine in question is as good as that he used to rob from Mensieur de Soubise, I shall be very well satisfied. I will give Brooks directions to acquaint satisfied. I will give Brooks directions to acquaint you with the proper manner of sending it. I am quite ashamed of dwelling so long upon this, after the very serious business of this letter; but you know I cannot help being a friend to the poor abuses; and besides, in a political light, good wine is no mean ingredient in keeping one's friends in good humour and steady to the cause." good humour and steady to the cause."

Poor Thomas Grenville's position was an uncomfortable one; nor was he likely to carry into effect the objects of his mission, when a counter-scheme was at work, such as the following extract from a letter to Mr. Fox discloses. Mr. Oswald was the clandestine negotiator sent over by Lord Shelburne:—

"You will observe though, for it is on that account that I give you this narrative, that this intended appointment has effectually stopped Franklin's mouth to me; and that when he is told that Mr. Oswald is to be the Commissioner to treat that Mr. Oswald is to be the Commissioner to treat with him, it is but natural that he should reserve his confidence for the quarter so pointed out to him; nor does this secret seem only known to Franklin; as Lafayette said. laughing, yesterday, that he had just left Lord Shelburne's ambassador at Passy. Indeed, this is not the first moment of a separate and private negotiation; for Mr. Oswald, suspecting, by something that I dropped, that Franklin had talked to me about Canada, (though, by the bye, he never had,) told me this circumstance as follows. When he was in England, the stance as follows. When he was in England, the last time but one, he carried with him a paper, entrusted to him by Franklin, under condition that entrusted to him by Franklin, under condition that it should be shown only to Lord Shelburne, and re-turned into his own hands at Passy; this paper, under the title of 'Notes of a Conversation,' con-tained an idea of Canada being spontaneously ceded by England to the Thirteen Provinces, in order that Congress might sell the unappropriated lands, and make a fund thereby, in order to comadvices to the ambassador:—
"Were I the Minister, I would give France an island or two to choose, if it would expose her self-ishness, sooner than let her gain the esteem of the Americans by claiming anything essential for them in apparent preference to her own interest and ambition. All people, of all descriptions, in America, will read the treaty of peace, whenever it comes, which France shall make with this country; and if they should see there that she has claimed

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it was supposed not to be agreeable, Mr. Oswald showed to Lord Shelburne, who, after keeping it a day, as Mr. Oswald supposes to show to the King, returned it to him, and it was by him brought back to Franklin."

Lord Shelburne's character appears in a most unfavourable light throughout the correspondence. In a letter to Lord Temple from Mr. W. W. Grenville, at the close of 1782, he is thus spoken of:—

"Either, therefore, Lord Shelburne is (not a dissembler, but) the most abandoned and direct liar upon the face of the earth, or he is deceived himself, too grossly to be imagined, or the whole world besides is deceived. Which of these is the case time will show, and that only; but I cannot bring myself to imagine that the first is. That he wishes you should believe him secure, I can easily imagine, and that he wishes it very strongly; but that he should therefore be induced to pledge himself to so direct a falsehood, which he must know it was my business to repeat to you, and yours to act upon, and which the event of a few weeks must demonstrate to be false if it is so, exceeds my utmost power of belief. That the Duke of Richmond thinks as Lord Shelburne has expressed himself to me, is, I apprehend, most probable, from the very strong compliments he paid him and the flattering language he held to him in the House of Lords on Friday. But this is mere conjecture. What is certain, on the other hand, is that the explanation given by him in the House of Lords of the American treaty does not tally with that of Pitt, Townshend and Conway in the House of Commons, to which nevertheless the three last have positively pledged their faith and honour."

His conduct is much blamed in respect to the management of Irish affairs, to the illustration of which, during the Vice-Royalty of Earl Temple, the next portion of the Memoirs is devoted. We must pass over this part of the work, which we have read with exemplary patience, but which we find to contain little matter of permanent historical interest. Amidst the dreary discussion of local political topics, which the legislative union has long since happily consigned to oblivion, it is quite a relief to come upon some letters relating to the institution of the Order of St. Patrick, which took place under the government of Lord Temple. This was an affair quite congenial to the taste of the Lord-Lieutenant, and his brother William, then in London, warmly aided him in his plans:—

"The King was pleased with the motto, Quis separabit? To this would apply very well the Collar which Hawkins told me had been thought of, of trefoils and roses alternate. Townshend will write, or has wrote, to you for a plan, which plan is meant to include Badges, and all other playthings belonging to it. You'll break Percy's heart if you settle it all without him. Pray oblige me, as a herald, so far as to appoint a genealogist, and to make the Knights deliver in pedigrees three descents back at least: that is the number in the Garter Statutes, which I send to you. The Thistle and Bath have both genealogists—the last must be an arduous office. I do not apprehend that the names are meant to be sent as part of the plan, nor indeed can you do that yet. Do you offer one to the Nolo Privy Councillari, or do you draw the line of none but Privy Councillors?"

In a subsequent letter a multitude of details are given, and the question is asked, "Is the jewellery—I mean collars and badges—to be done in Ireland? I believe there is no workmanship at all of that sort there." Sir Richard Kane could tell a different tale now of Irish industry and art, and the Dublin Exhibition of this year will doubtless give ample proof of the excellence of "that sort of workmanship."

One of the best letters in the collection is

from Mr. W. W. Grenville to Lord Temple, giving an account of a private audience with the King:—

"When I first came in, he stated, with many very flattering expressions to you, the concern which he had felt at the idea of your resignation; that he had sent to me in order that he might have an opportunity of letting you into all the circumstances of the present situation, which he thought the most calamitous into which any country had ever been brought; that the kingdom was split into parties, not as had been formerly the case—two great bodies of men acting under the different denominations of Whigs and Tories, and upon different principles of conduct—but into factions, which had avowedly no other view than that of forcing themselves, at all hazards, into office; that before you took any step, he wished you to be fully apprized of the circumstances, which he would for that purpose detail to me, as he hoped that your letter had been written in the idea of the Government falling into the hands of persons of the description stated above.

"I answered, that I believed you had certainly had that event in view, as one which the circumstances of the time rendered too probable. He then went into a long detail (with a great number of digressions upon the different political subjects of the day) of what had passed since Monday's vote, particularly between him and Lord North, of whom he scaled in terms of strong resentment and dispared.

he spoke in terms of strong resentment and disgust.
"He stated, that when Lord Shelburne could no longer remain, he had first endeavoured to persuade Pitt to suffer the Treasury to devolve upon him, and that at one time he had entertained the mind, and that at one time he had entertained the most flattering hopes of success; but being disap-pointed in this, he had tried the Cabinet all round, but none had the spirit to stand forth. He had then sent to Lord North (after a week's delay to try other arrangements, particularly one in which the H. C. and the seals of the Secretary of State had been offered to and pressed upon Ths. Pitt), to know whether he was open to negotiation, or prevented by this coalition; that when, in consequence of this message, he saw him, he had at first tried whether he would accept the Treasury; because, much as he disliked them both, if he was to choose, he must certainly prefer Lord North to Fox. When Lord North declined this, he proposed that an arrangement should be made, leaving the Treasury open to some person of neither party, to be named by him afterwards; that Lord North left him with this proposal, but the next day told him that Mr. Fox insisted upon the Treasury for the Duke of Portland. After some time, he consented to this point also, and then desired that Lord North would bring him a written arrangement, that he might be enabled to see the whole, and form his judgment upon all the dismissals and appointments which were intended. After two days more, he had sent for Lord North, who had told him that he had no such arrangement to bring him, for that difficulties had arisen between them; that Fox insisted upon removing the Chancellor, in order that the Seals might be put into commission. this the King objected very strongly, as he had expressed his desire that the arrangement might be made upon a broad basis; and that nothing could different from such an idea than the dismissal of the Chancellor, without having any person to substitute in his room. Lord North then said that another difficulty had arisen. He had named Lord Stormont for the Secretaryship of State; but this had been objected to; and Lord Stormont had refused to accept of any other situation. The King again asked him whether, this being the case, he would undertake it separately. This was declined.

"Yesterday evening, at five, Lord North was again at the Queen's House, when the King told him that he desired it might be understood that it was not he who broke off the arrangement upon the idea of keeping the Lord Chancellor; that, on the contrary, he desired it might be understood that he had expressed no determination, nor would he express any, upon a particular part of the proposed arrangement, till the whole was submitted

to him. Therefore, if they thought to obviate the difficulties which they found in making it by laying the onus upon him, he was not fairly dealt with."

After some indirect communications, the King wrote to Lord Temple. The letter has much historical interest, and it clearly shows the policy of George III. at this period, tolerating the coalition ministry as a painful necessity, and declaring privately to his friends his resolution of getting rid of them at the earliest opportunity:—

" The King to Lord Temple.

"Queen's House, April 1st, 1783.
"My Lord,—I had the pleasure, on the 26th of last month, to receive from your truly amiable and right-headed brother and secretary, your very able letter of the 23rd on the state of Ireland, couched in terms that also conveyed the warmest attachment to my person and Government, which makes me not deem among the least of public misfortunes, that the want of resolution in some, and of public zeal in others, will oblige you to quit a station which you fill so much to the satisfaction of all honest men as well as to mine.

"Since the conversation I had with Mr. William Grenville on the 16th of last month, I have continued every possible means of forming an Administration; an experience of now above twenty-two years convinces me that it is impossible to erect a stable one within the narrow bounds of any faction, for none deserve the appellation of party; and that in an age when disobedience to law and authority is as prevalent as a thirst after changes in the best of all political Constitutions, it requires temper and sagacity to stem these evils, which can alone be expected from a collection of the best and most calm heads and hearts the kingdom possesses.

"Judge, therefore, of the uneasiness of my mind, at having been thwarted in every attempt to keep the administration of public affairs out of the hands of the most unprincipled coalition the annals of this or any other nation can equal. I have withstood it till not a single man is willing to come to my assistance, and till the House of Commons has taken every step, but insisting on this faction being by name elected Ministers.

"To end a conflict which stops every wheel of Government, and which would affect public credit if it continued much longer, I intend this night to acquaint that grateful Lord North, that the seven Cabinet Counsellors the coalition has named shall kiss hands to-morrow, and then form their arrangements, as the former negotiation they did not condescend to open to many of their intentions.

"A Ministry which I have avowedly attempted to avoid, by calling on every other description of men, cannot be supposed to have either my favour or confidence; and as such, I shall most certainly refuse any honours they may ask for. I trust the eyes of the nation will soon be opened, as my sorrow may prove fatal to my health if I remain long in this thraldom. I trust you will be steady in your attachment to me, and ready to join other honest men in watching the conduct of this unnitural combination; and I hope many months will not elapse before the Grenvilles, the Pitts, and other men of abilities and character will relieve me from a situation that nothing could have compelled me to submit to, but the supposition that no other means remained of preventing the public finances from being materially affected.

"It shall be one of my first cares to acquaint these men that you decline remaining in Ireland.

His Majesty's letter is, as the editor well remarks, "an excellent specimen of his pure English style and practical good sense."

Lord Temple's letters to the King do not raise our estimate of his character, the utterances of loyalty degenerating into the most fawning obsequiousness, and selfish ambition peeping through his professions of patriotism.

Of the abies environt of the second volume

Of the chief contents of the second volume we will give some account in another article.

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Meanwhile we must not omit to notice with censure the frequent blunders of the press throughout the volumes. Besides minor errors and misprints there is searcely a single Latin quotation correctly given. For "liberare animum" we read librari,—"En quo discordia eives prodazit miseros"—"Stay at Stowe, my dear brother; laudo momentem," for manentem -and for "amicitiæ sempiternæ, inimicitiæ placabiles" we have amiciteæ lempitereæ inimicetræ placabiles, the last word alone happening to be right. If the Duke of Buckingham had not leisure to revise his book some one of decent scholarship ought to have been employed to read the proof-sheets.

My Novel; or, Varieties in English Life. By Pisistratus Caxton. Blackwood & Sons. Ir used to be the fashion with Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, whenever he published a new novel or play, to alarm the pensive public by the announcement that it was to be his last. In course of time his readers became accustomed to this little bit of foppish weakness; and, as they finished the work in hand, they felt tolerably assured that it would be duly followed by another from the same pen, containing a similar announcement. For in none of these works was there any trace of a flag-ging fancy or exhausted brain. On the contrary, while they generally gave evidence of advancement in knowledge of men and things, they were at the same time tinged by an imagination as vivid and enlivened by an invention as fertile as his earlier works. Of late Sir Edward has not only ceased to make these announcements, but he has also given pregnant signs of an intention to keep his place among the most active literary men of the day, and to eclipse, if he can, the works by which he made his reputation. In his de-lightful novel of 'The Caxtons,' he opened up a new vein of character and incident, and revealed a ripeness and purity of taste, and a nice observation of the phases of society as they present themselves in the every-day life of the nineteenth century, which gave to that work the elements of more lasting popularity than any of his previous romances. In the present novel he has continued to work in the same vein, and if not with uniform success, still with results which will unquestionably add to his already brilliant reputation.

The inequality of excellence which was to The inequality of excellence which was to be observed in nearly all Sir Edward Lytton's works, and the want both of a high moral and religious element, which so constantly marred his best conceptions, were less apparent in 'The Caxtons' than they had hitherto been. The author's mind seemed to have passed through some ennobling and purifying processes, which had given a healthier turn to his views of life and manners. His observation of character and analysis of motive seemed to have become closer and deeper. His eye had become more able to discern the poetry which lies in actual life, and dwelt less on the sentimental aspects in which that life is seen in the romancer's page, distorted and unreal; above all, profound religious convictions lent a deeper wisdom and a more carnest tone to his estimate of conduct and to the philosophical speculations into which Sir Edward's pen seems of necessity to wander. The spirit of our most truly English writers seemed also to have penetrated his own genius. Addison, Sterne, Goldsmith among the elders,—Diekens and Thackeray among contemporaries, had

each produced an influence upon a mind that had hitherto been apt to soar a little too much above the level of the earth. It seemed as though he had begun to feel that the nearer he could come in his fictions to life as it actually is, the more surely would he touch the hearts and stimulate the imaginations of his readers, by stirring them into sympathetic action with the passions, the sorrows, and the joys which are the basis of all profound poetical emotion. In the Real, to adopt his own style of expression, he had turned to seek for the true Ideal; and the result amply justified the wisdom of the course. 'The Caxtons' will be remembered when 'Eugene Aram' is, if not forgotten, at least unread; and thousands of hearts will open to the sage Augustine's simple unsophisticated loving wife, while the "rare pale" Madeline, with her high-flown reveries and morbid imaginations will fail to interest the healthy minds of after generations. The work was altogether worthy of the matured powers of so accomplished a of the matured powers or so accompassed a writer, and reconciled many a reader whom the false philosophy and often meretricious feeling that marred his previous works had alienated. "The family picture" which it presented has already become familiar at those firesides where a high English heart would most long to be welcomed, and feeling how deep an impression he had made, it was natural that Sir Edward should seek to prolong it in a new work, connected with this happiest child of his imagination by some thread of association however slight.

This thread is formed by the circumstance that our friend Pisistratus Caxton is the professed author of the tale, and that a conclave of the family sits at the commencement of each book in judgment upon the work as it proceeds. Any advantage gained by this link between the two works is, we think, more than lost by the drag which it imposes upon the progress of the story. It is liable, moreover, to the objection of being an imitation. Fielding in his initial chapters has set the example, justified only by his peculiar genius, of retarding his story, while the author indulges in general reflections suggested by its progress. The interruptions of a more discursive kind in which Sterne disports himself, are felt even in his great work at times to inflict a perillous tax upon the patience. Dickens tried something of the same kind in 'Master Humphrey's Clock,' but failed. Indeed, it is clear that it is only in works where the humours of the author are everything, as in Rabelais or Sterne, and the action of the story nothing, that the reader will not resent such breaks in the narrative as an impertinence. If the heroine be in despair, or the hero at some great crisis, who can bear to be held by the button to discuss some problem of ethics or nice point of criticism? The opinions even of Augustine Caxton become a bore under such circumstances. The reader has opinions of his own on such matters, but these are swamped for the time by his feelings and his curiosity; and he would not thank Lord Bacon himself were his lordship to interpolate at such a juncture a diviner essay than any he has left. The inconvenience of these episodical chapters is more sensibly felt where, as in the present case, the novel almost rivals Pamela or Sir Charles Grandison in length. Not unwisely have three volumes been assigned as the limits of a novel-reader's patience. The excitement of a good romance cannot be kept up longer with- let us now come to those particulars in which

out exhaustion; and if the characters be not killed off or married within that compass we begin to grow indifferent to their fate. A fourth volume is as bad as a sixth act to a tragedy; and just as Edmund Kean himself could not have kept us from yawning in the latter case, so not even Sir Bulwer Lytton can sustain the attention after it has followed him with throbbing pulse to the close of three closely-printed octavos. This tediousness, felt even in the magazine where 'My Novel' originally appeared, becomes 'My Novel' originally appeared, becomes more perceptible on a continuous perusal. Had the last two volumes been condensed into one, as we think they might have been without injury to the story, and had certain slight curtailments been made in the earlier volumes, this novel would have taken rapk with the most admirable works of taken rank with the most admirable works of its class. As it is, the writing of the work month by month, to meet the exigencies of publication in a magazine, has, as in other instances, operated to make the style diffuse where it should have been close, and to cause the interest to be broken, and the incidents the interest to be broken, and the incidents to be loosely strung together, where both should have been compact, thereby diminishing the merit of the work as an artistic whole. This drawback is seriously felt in the latter half of the book, which scarcely maintains the excellence of the earlier portion, half the above tree and incident legis -both the characters and incidents losing something of that air of simple truthfulness charm of the story, and which it was obviously Sir Edward's object at the outset to maintain. 'Varieties in English Life,' as the title bears, are its theme, and it is only when, forgetting this, he travels into regions bordering rather upon romance in the seventeenth than reality in the nineteenth century, that he loses his hold upon the mind and heart, which he has previously established by a geniality akin to Goldsmith's, and a shrewdgenialty akin to Goldsmith's, and a shrewdness akin to Thackeray's, without the leaven of Thackeray's bitterness, tempered by a refinement of feeling and perception, and an eloquence of style peculiar to himself.

As in 'The Caxtons,' so in 'My Novel,' Sir Edward has imitated upon occasion, and

not unsuccessfully, the terseness and quaint turns of Sterne. Much as we admire the skill of these passages, we cannot forget the prototype, or fail to remember that the manner is at best but a copy. In so far as we are thus reminded our admiration of Sir we are thus reminded our admiration of Sir Edward's own powers is diminished. His characters are original and by no means Shandean. Why, then, should he clothe them in Shandean garments? We do not set up his Parson Dale against My Uncle Toby, nor his Squire Hazeldean against Mr. Shandy; but they are scarcely less admirable in their way, and we should have been much better pleased had they been allowed to show themselves in their own natural manner, in which case we are quite sure they would never have reminded us of the trick of Sterne's style, which, however charming it may be, is but a trick after all. So far as Sir Edward has imitated Sterne and other old models in closeness and simplicity of style, he has done so with obvious advantage, and in no way compromised his own genius; but he assuredly stoops unworthily when he goes further, and tries to emulate peculiarities distinctive of the individual writer.

Having thus disposed of what appear to us the faults of this otherwise delightful book,

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it seems to demand our warmest praise. we have already said, the first half of the book is the best. The action so far lies wholly in the country, and this part of the book is pervaded by a pure healthful atmosphere, redolent of the simple life and emotions which prevail where man is in more frequent contact and communion with nature. A story of romantic passion skilfully developed runs through the book as the dominant interest from the commencement to the close, and in its progress we are introduced to characters at once so lifelike and so characteristic of the age, that it is scarcely too much to suppose they will become familiar in every household, just as Dr. Primrose and his family are familiar. They have all the lineaments of truth which give reality, combined with the charm of worth and sweetness which endear to the heart and fancy. A rich gallery, in sooth, they are,—Parson Dale, with his fine Christian heart; his dear domineering loving wife; Squire Hazeldean, shrewd, generous, bluff, wilful, gallant, and kind-hearted, a true gentleman of the country breed; his wife blooming, active, sharing her husband's pursuits, and gently tempering his foibles; Jemima, the squire's sister; and Riccabocca, the grave, gentle-hearted cynic, with Machiavelli on his lips, and loving-kindness in his heart. On these the author has worked with a loving hand, nor has he in any of his books delineated characters more truly original, or more finished in their details. In sketching his peasants, too, Sir Edward has been more successful than is usual with him. They think, feel, and speak like peasants. There is homespun and corduroy in their composition, and we do not see, as of yore, the scholar and the man of the world peeping through studied and artificial dialogue. The whole family of the Avenels are drawn with fine discrimination, and the blight brought upon them by the betrayal of a daughter of their house is shown with genuine pathos. The peasant genius, Leonard, is a character in which, as might be supposed, Sir Edward's peculiar powers find pleasing scope, and it affords him an opportunity of developing views of the literary life which are the fruits of a ripe experience. The struggles and aspirations of Leonard, and the love which forms the ennobling principle of his life, are full of interest, sustained by the eloquence and ardour which never fail Sir Edward in dealing with natures animated by the aspirations of genius, and purified by the influence of woman. The character of Audley Egerton, the Statesman, who forms a central figure in the story, intended as the type of those men who sink their personal life in a public career, is scarcely so successful. It seems to us to be hardly conceivable that a man of method and principle so exact as Egerton should allow his private affairs to be wrecked in the hands of a money-lender, however great might be the claims of public duty upon his time. It is true that political history has shown some instances of this kind, but they are the exceptions. For one Pitt in matters of this sort we have many Peels. In other particulars, this character is so admirably drawn, that we the more regret the apparent incongruity. In Harley l'Estrange, fascinating as he is, we seem to recognise more of the Sir Bulwer Lytton of the days of Pelham than is quite desirable. The combination of the finest powers with an ardent nature subdued by one great disappointment to inaction the most extreme, constitutes him

one of those brilliant paragons which exist more in the pages of romance than in actual life. We should, however, have only thought of his fine chivalrous nature, and forgotten all improbabilities, but for the very fur-fetched incidents in which the concluding volume involves him for the rescue of Riccabocca's daughter, Violante, from the Marquis de Peschiera, and the fierce vindictiveness against his friend Egerton, by which he is carried away for a time. In a romance of the 'Whitefriars' school such incidents and passions would pass muster, but they are sadly out of place in a novel professing to deal with 'Varieties in English Life.' This is, in truth, the great blot upon the book. Surely Sir Edward might have managed to bring his characters into a happy tableau at the close, without preliminary scenes which savour less of probability than of the transpontine melodrama. As it is, all this part of his work jars like a false chord with the even, natural course of what has gone before. Randal Leslie, the impersonation of intellect without heart, a not uncommon variety of English life in the present day, has only one fault; he is kept too long and constantly on the scene. The character is admirably drawn, but villany of the Iago school becomes tiresome to follow through its intricate doublings beyond a certain point. Of the two principal female characters, Helen and Violante, both beautiful types of two distinct orders of women,-the woman who consoles, and the woman who exalts,-Helen seems to us to be the most successfully developed, Violante to be the most fascinating in conception. Sir Edward has injured the latter by involving her in the melodramatic scenes of abduction to which we have alluded. The vigorous common sense which ever governs the conduct of women gifted with her high order of powers would have prevented her from being duped by such a shallow scheme. Pity that a conception so charming should not have been worked out more carefully in its details!

We shall not mar our readers' enjoyment of the book by attempting any sketch of the story, but proceed to give a few extracts in illustration of its excellence. How charming, for example, is this sketch of Parson Dale!

"Parson Dale, though a very fair scholar, had neither the deep theology nor the archeological learning that distinguish the rising generation of the clergy. I much doubt if he could have passed what would now be called a creditable examination in the Fathers; and as for all the nice formalities in the rubric, he would never have been the man divide a congregation or puzzle a bishop. Neither was Parson Dale very erudite in ecclesias tical architecture. He did not much care whether all the details in the church were purely Gothic or not; crockets and finials, round arch and pointed were matters, I fear, on which he had never But one secret Parson Dale troubled his head. did possess, which is perhaps of equal importance those subtler mysteries-he knew how to fill his church! Even at morning service no pews were empty, and at evening service the church overflowed.

"Parson Dale, too, may be considered, now-adays, to hold but a mean idea of the spiritual authority of the Church. He had never been known to dispute on its exact bearing with the State—whether it was incorporated with the State, or above the State—whether it was antecedent to the Papacy, or formed from the Papacy, &c. &c. According to his favourite maxim Quieta non movere, (not to disturb things that are quiet,) I have no doubt that he would have thought that the less discussion is provoked upon such matters, the

better for both church and laity. Nor had he ever been known to regret the disuse of the ancient custom of excommunication, nor any other diminution of the powers of the priesthood, whether minatory or militant; yet for all this Parson Dale had a great notion of the sacred privilege of a minister of the gospel—to advise—to deter—to persuade to reprove. And it was for the evening service that he prepared those sermons, which may be called 'sermons that preach at you.' He preferred the evening for that salutary discipline, not only because the congregation was more numerous, but also because, being a shrewd man in his own innocent way, he knew that people bear better to be preached at after dinner than before: that you arrive more insinuatingly at the heart when the stomach is at peace. There was a genial kindness in Parson Dale's way of preaching at you. It was done in so imperceptible fatherly a manner, that you never felt offended. He did it, too, with so much art that nobody but your own guilty self knew that you were the sinner he was exhorting. Yet he did not spare rich nor poor; he preached at the Squire, and that great fat farmer, Mr. Bullock the churchwarden, as boldly as at Hodge the ploughman, and Scrub the hedger. As for Mr. Stirn, he had preached at him more often than at any one in the parish; but Stirn, though he had the sense to know it, never had the grace to re-form. There was, too, in Parson Dale's sermons, something of that boldness of illustration which would have been scholarly if he had not made it familiar, and which is found in the discourses of our elder divines. Like them, he did not scruple, now and then, to introduce an anecdote from history, or borrow an allusion from some non-scriptural author, in order to enliven the attention of his audience, or render an argument more plain. And the good man had an object in this, a little distinct from, though wholly subordinate to, the main purpose of his discourse. He was a friend to knowledge—but to knowledge accompanied by religion; and sometimes his references to sources not within the ordinary reading of his congregation would spirit up some farmer's son, with an evening's leisure on his hands, to ask the Parson for farther explanation, and so be lured on to a little solid or graceful instruction under a safe guide.'

We wish we could find room for the parson's political sermon, a homily worthy to take place side by side with that famous sermon by Parson Yorick, which is felt to be immortal on the lips of Corporal Trim. This we cannot do, but we must find space for one of the many passages in which the calm Christian wisdom and loving kindness of the parson are made to exercise a benign influence on the hearts of the friends about him. A visit to his friend Riccabocca, the learned Italian exile, who has married the Squire's sister Jemima, is thus described:—

"A sweet sound came through the orange boughs and floated to the ears of the Parson, as he would slowly up the gentle ascent—so sweet, so silvery, he paused in delight—unaware, wretched man! that he was thereby conniving at Papistical errors. Soft it came, and sweet; softer and sweeter—'Ave Maria'. Violante was chanting the evening hymn to the Virgin Mother. The Parson at lat distinguished the sense of the words, and shook his head with the pious shake of an orthodox Protestant. He broke from the spell resolutely, and walked on with a sturdy step. Gaining the terrace, he found the little family seated under an awning. Mrs. Riccabocca knitting; the Signore with his arms folded on his breast; the book he had been reading a few moments before had fallen on the ground, and his dark eyes were soft and dreamy. Violante had finished her hymn, and seated herself on the ground between the two, pillowing her head on her step-mother's lap, but with her hand resting on her father's knee, and her gaze fixed fondly on his face.

"'Good evening,' said Mr. Dale. Violante stole up to him, and pulling him so as to bring his ear

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nearer to her lip, whispered,- 'Talk to papa, do

and cheerfully; he is sad.'

"She escaped from him as she said this, and appeared to busy herself with watering the flowers arranged on stands round the awning. But she kept her swimming lustrous eyes wistfully on her father.

"'How fares it with you, my dear friend?' said the Parson kindly, as he rested his hand on the Italian's shoulder. 'You must not let him get out Italian's shoulder.

of spirits, Mrs. Riccabocca.

"I am very ungrateful to her if I ever am so,' said the poor Italian, with all his natural gallantry.

Many a good wife, who thinks it is a reproach to her if her husband is ever 'out of spirits,' might have turned peevishly from that speech, more elegant than sincere, and so have made bad worse. But Mrs. Riccabocca took her husband's proferred hand affectionately, and said with much naïveté-

""You see I am so stupid, Mr. Dale; I never knew I was so stupid till I married. But I am very glad you are come. You can get on some learned subject together, and then he will not miss

so much his—'
"'His what?' asked Riccabocca inquisitively. "'His country. Do you think that I cannot

sometimes read your thoughts?

"'Very often, But you did not read them just en. The tongue touches where the tooth aches, but the best dentist cannot guess at the tooth unless one open one's mouth.—Basta! Can we offer you some wine of our own making, Mr. Dale ? -it is pure.'

"'I'd rather have some tea,' quoth the Parson

hastily.

"Mrs. Riccabocca, too pleased to be in her natural element of domestic use, hurried into the house to prepare our national beverage. And the Parson, sliding into her chair, said—
"'But you are dejected, then? Fie! if there's

a virtue in the world at which we should always

a white in the world a which we should always aim, it is cheerfulness.'
"'I don't dispute it,' said Riccabocca, with a heavy sigh. 'But though it is said by some Greek, who, I think, is quoted by your favourite Seneca, that a wise man carries his country with him at the soles of his feet, he can't carry also the sunshine over his head.

"'I tell you what it is,' said the Parson bluntly you would have a much keener sense of happiness if you had much less esteem for philosophy.'
"'Cospetto!' said the Doctor, rousing himself.

'Just explain, will you?'

"'Does not the search after wisdom induce desires not satisfied in this small circle to which your life is confined ? It is not so much your country for which you yearn, as it is for space to your intellect, employment for your thoughts, career for your aspirations.'

"'You have guessed at the tooth which aches,"

said Riccabocca with admiration.
"'Easy to do that,' answered the Parson. 'Our wisdom teeth come last, and give us the most pain. And if you would just starve the mind a little, and nourish the heart more, you would be less of a philosopher, and more of a—' The Parson had the word 'Christian' at the tip of his tongue : he suppressed a word that, so spoken, would have been exceedingly irritating, and substituted, with inelegant antithesis, 'and more of a happy man!'
"'I do all I can with my heart,' quoth the

Doctor.

"'Not you! For a man with such a heart as yours should never feel the want of the sunshine. My friend, we live in an age of over mental cultivation. We neglect too much the simple healthful outer life, in which there is so much positive joy. In turning to the world within us, we grow blind to this beautiful world without: in studying ourselves as men, we almost forget to look up to hea-

ven, and warm to the smile of God.'
"The philosopher mechanically shrugged his shoulders, as he always did when another man moralised—especially if the moraliser were a priest; but there was no irony in his smile, as he answered

that we live too much as if we were all brain. Knowledge has its penalties and pains, as well

as its prizes.'
"'That is just what I want you to say to Leo-

"' How have you settled the object of your journey ?

'I will tell you as we walk down to him after tea. At present, I am rather too much occupied

with you. '
"'Me? The tree is formed—try only to bend

the young twig!

"Trees are trees, and twigs twigs,' said the Parson dogmatically; 'but man is always growing till he falls into the grave. I think I have heard you say that you once had a narrow escape of a prison ?

" 'Very narrow.'

"'Just suppose that you were now in that prison, and that a fairy conjured up the prospect of this quiet home in a safe land; that you saw the orange trees in flower, felt the evening breeze on your cheek; beheld your child gay or sad, as you smiled or knit your brow; that within this phan-tom home was a woman, not, indeed, all your young romance might have dreamed of, but faithful and true, every beat of her heart all your own—would you not cry from the depth of the dungeon, 'O fairy! such a change were a paradise.' Ungrateful man! you want interchange for your mind, and your heart should suffice for all!

Riccabocca was touched and silent.

"'Come hither, my child,' said Mr. Dale, turning round to Violante, who still stood among the flowers, out of hearing, but with watchful eyes. 'Come hither,' he said, opening his arms.

"Violante bounded forward, and nestled to the

good man's heart.
"'Tell me, Violante, when you are alone in the fields or the garden, and have left your father looking pleased and serene, so that you have no care for him at your heart,—tell me, Violante, though you are all alone, with the flowers below and the birds singing overhead, do you feel that life itself is happiness or sorrow?"
""Happiness!' answered Violante, half shutting

her eyes, and in a measured voice.

Can you explain what kind of happiness it is?" "'Oh no, impossible! and it is never the same. Sometimes it is so still—so still,—and sometimes so joyous, that I long for wings to fly up to God, and thank him !'

"'O friend,' said the Parson, 'this is the true sympathy between life and nature, and thus we should feel ever, did we take more care to preserve the health and innocence of a child. We are told that we must become as children to enter into the kingdom of heaven; methinks we should also become as children to know what delight there is in our heritage of earth!""

We must reserve the rest of our extracts for another week.

Asie Mineure: Description Physique, Statistique, et Archéologique de cette Contrée. Par P. de Tchihatcheff. Premiere Partie: Geographie Physique Comparée. Baillière.

THE mists which for so many centuries have hung over the geography of Asia Minor are gradually clearing off. From time to time we obtain additional glimpses of the natural features and phenomena of a country, to the history of which attention has been directed since the earliest periods. No country in the world is so full of historical associations as Asia Minor, and of none was the physical geography so little known even at the commencement of the present century. accounts of each successive traveller who has added his quota of information respecting this country has only increased our curiosity, and excited our desire to become better acthoughtfully—
"There is some truth in what you say. I own character, and the many valuable relics of

antiquity which still lie scattered in every

direction over its once populous regions.
Since Major Rennell collected all the materials then known respecting the geography of Asia Minor, and constructed the best map which the means at his command enabled him to produce, English, French, and German travellers have at different periods added considerably to our stock of information. Amongst our own countrymen we may mention the names of Keppel, Arundel, Hamilton, Ainsworth, Fellowes, Spratt, and Edward Forbes, as some of the most active. The valuable drawings and plans of Texier's work attest the spirit with which the French have entered into this honourable rivalry of nations, while the map of Asia Minor, published by Kiepert, giving the results of the Prussian expedition, is no less creditable to the energy and talents of the Germans.

The work now before us is the production of a distinguished Russian-one of a nation which, during the last ten years, stimulated by the example of their more western brethren, and encouraged by the establishment of a Geographical Society at St. Petersburg, under the patronage of the government, has done more in the prosecution of geographical investigation than almost any other nation of Europe. M. P. de Tchihatcheff has been long known in this country and in France as a gallant and enterprising traveller, and as a geologist of no mean calibre. On his return from China, in 1845, he determined to put into execution a plan which had been the dream of his earlier days, and turned his attention towards Asia Minor, of which he says-

"That, amidst the magnificent provinces which constitute the Ottoman Empire, none contains so many elements of interest and of attraction as Asia Minor; for, without speaking of its political importance, the result of its unparalleled position, and which will only then be duly appreciated, when it shall have been fully explored and analysed in a scientific point of view, this country addresses itself not only to every branch of human knowledge, but to all the faculties of the mind and soul.

"It is this universality of interest, and the prestige which it exercises on the imagination, that explain in a great measure why this country, for so many centuries the object of learned pilgrimages, still remains in many respects a real terra incognita.

For a long time the explorers of Asia Minor had no other object in view but to discover the traces of that which no longer existed. The theatre of the greatest splendours and of the most overwhelming calamities, by turns the cradle and the burial ground of nations, of sciences and arts, this country, unique of its kind, has a past of such gigantic proportions, that for a moment it might have been supposed that no room was left for the present or the future. Travellers were thus contented to direct attention almost exclusively to its tombs, more magnificent in fact than the royal dwellings of existing generations. The result has been that the admirable works of man have caused those of nature to be forgotten, and one seemed to forget that by the side of these most eloquent ruins there were other monuments infinitely more grand, also having their own language, and only waiting the moment of being addressed to give utterance to it."

These views of M. de Tchihatcheff will explain the objects and purposes which guided him during the four years of his laborious investigations of these regions. We learn from the preface that the complete work, entitled 'Asia Minor, or Physical, Statistical, and Archæological Description of this Country,' will consist of four parts, the first of which—the volume now under consideration -contains the physical geography; the second will be devoted to the climatology and

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the geographical distribution of vegetation; the third to the geology; and the fourth to a statistical, political, and archæological examination of the Peninsula. In announcing an historical notice on the state of the Peninsula of Asia Minor at the period when it first fell into the hands of its Mahometan conquerors, M. de Tchihatcheff takes the opportunity of vindicating the character of the Turks against the charge of being themselves the cause of the present depressed condition of the country, inferring that it was already ruined before it passed into the hands of its present possessors.

It would be premature to enter into a discussion of this question before the arguments or proofs of M. de Tchihatcheff are before the public. But it must never be forgotten that, however great the blame incurred by the Byzantine and Genoese rulers, in wantonly destroying the glorious monuments and temples of antiquity to obtain the necessary materials for the construction of their churches and their fortresses, many of the most striking evidences of destruction and deterioration in the present day are the ruins of these very churches subsequently plundered and destroyed by Mahometans, the mouldering fragments of Mahometan mosques and other buildings, together with very recent edifices constructed within the last century by the Turks themselves out of the still remaining monuments of ancient days. We need only call attention to the present aspect of the town of Konieh (Iconium) itself, and the two remaining columns of the Temple of Cybele, at Sardis, of which seven were still standing not half a century ago, in proof of this assertion.

But we must endeavour to give our readers some idea of the work itself. The great geographical features of the Peninsula are elaborately gone through. The general outline and configuration of the coast, with its numerous capes and headlands, bays and gulfs, are first carefully described, and its real form and appearance is compared with the accounts given by the ancient geographers. Notwithstanding the general correctness of the ancients in local descriptions, and the truly Homeric appropriateness of the epithets applied to particular spots, the science of physical geography must have been at a low ebb indeed, when we find such writers as Pliny, Quintus Curtius, Dionysius Periegetes, and Seymnus of Chio, throwing back the coasts of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean so far as to bring them within six or seven days' journey of each other. Nor were the Arabic geographers of the middle ages much better informed. On this subject M. de Tchihatcheff Says:—

says:—
"We will not stop to inquire what form this country must have assumed in the opinion of many Oriental geographers, who, not being scrupulous with regard to the general configuration of the globe, must have been still less particular respecting the form of so small a fraction of our planet. Thus when the celebrated Massoudi gave to the earth the form of a bird, the head of which was represented by Mecca and Medina, the right wing by Persia and India, the left by Europe, and the tail by Africa, the humble peninsula which we are now examining can have been but a feather of this winged monster."

The following comparison between the length of a line drawn round the coast from the Gulf of Scanderoon to Cape Crio, thence to the Dardanelles and the mouth of the Bosphorus in the Black Sea, and continued to that point of the coast situated in the longitude of the Gulf of Scanderoon, with the real

coast line, will give some idea of the vast indentations of the coast, and the deep gulfs and bays by which it is everywhere characterised. While the first of these lines amounts to about 482 leagues, or 1446 miles, the real amount of coast line in the Peninsula is 1199 leagues, or 3597 miles.

leagues, or 3597 miles. The third chapter is devoted to a detailed description of the numerous lakes studded over the surface of the country. This feature has been already noticed by former travellers, and is an almost necessary consequence of its peculiar configuration, traversed and intersected as it is by various chains of mountains, in many of which are decided indications of igneous agency at different periods; some of these evidently fall within, or only immediately precede, the historic epoch. Numerous, however, as these lakes are, the number must have been considerably greater since the country assumed its present configuration. We have ourselves seen many now fertile and well-drained plains where lakes must have once existed before the waters escaped through the present fissures in the mountain barriers. Another peculiar feature in many of the lakes of Asia Minor is the great number of salt and bitter lakes. This also may be explained by the geological constitution and physical configuration of the country. Many of the lakes of Asia Minor have no outlet at all, others have no apparent outlet. In this case, which generally occurs in the vicinity of calcareous mountains, the superfluous waters escape by means of subterranean channels or katabothra, a phenomenon not unknown to those who have travelled in many parts of Greece, or in the mountainous regions between Trieste and Idria. This is the case with the lake of Ak Ghieul or Eregli, and we are surprised that M. de Tchihatcheff, in his account of it, should have omitted to allude to such an interesting phenomenon. A detailed account is also given of two other lakes, also situated on the northern flanks of Mount Taurus, the lakes of Bey Sheher and Soghlu Ghieul, the ancient Caralitis and Trogitis of Strabo, respecting the exact locality and geographical identity of which there was formerly so much uncertainty. With respect to the latter of these tainty. With respect to the latter of these lakes, however, the Soghlu Ghieul or Trogitis, we must enter our protest against the author's proposal-viz., that this lake should henceforth be erased from all maps of Asia Minor, because when he visited it during the autumn of 1847 he found it completely dried up, and the area which it had formerly occupied under a course of successful cultivation.

We recollect having read in Hamilton's 'Researches in Asia Minor' a curious account of this very lake, but which at the time appeared to us extremely problematical and vague. Mr. Hamilton visited this part of Asia Minor just ten years before M. de Tchihatcheff; and he states [Vol. II. p. 342 and 343] that he was then informed that the Lake of Soghlu is dried up every ten or twelve years; that one old man had seen it dry twice during his lifetime; that the recovered ground produces abundant crops of wheat; and that the plain remains dry from four to six years. He was further informed that the water escaped through a chasm (katabothron) amongst the rocks on the south side of the lake. In the face of such a statement, actually verified, as it now appears, some years afterwards, it can hardly be expected that M. de Tchihatcheff's proposal can be adopted. We are indeed sur-

prised that he does not allude to the circumstance itself, nor have we found that importance attached to these subterranean outlets which we should have expected in such a work. The fact of the drying up of the lake, however, is interesting and important, and will go far towards clearing up the many contradictory statements which have been made from time to time respecting the exact localities of these lakes.

In the succeeding portions of the work we have full details respecting the various rivers by which the Peninsula is watered, distributed according to the different seas into which -viz. the Black Sea, the Propontis and the Archipelago, and the Mediterranean. The many affluents of these rivers are described with a minuteness which, in some cases, might almost be termed tedious, but for the many details and comparisons with other countries which are introduced, and the valuable information they convey respecting the physical configuration and comparative geography of the country. But we must refer our readers to the work itself for full information on these and many other points which we cannot afford space to allude to. The numerous hot springs, for instance, which are met with in so many regions of Asia Minor are fully detailed, as well as those charged with such amazing quantities of carbonate and sulphate of lime as to produce the incrustations, of surprising magnitude, as seen amidst the ruins of Hierapolis, Colossa, and other places.

The concluding portion of the work is devoted to an account of the mountain chains and groups which traverse the country. Amongst these we cannot avoid directing attention to the interesting details respecting Mount Argæus, that giant of Asia Minor, celebrated in ancient as in modern times as the most lofty mountain in the Peninsula. M. de T. succeeded in reaching the summit, notwithstanding the perils he was exposed to from the falling stones detached by the thawing of the snow, a circumstance which renders it necessary to reach the summit before the sun has acquired sufficient influence to detach the blocks of stone frozen together during the night. He calculates the height of the mountain at 3841 metres or 12,600 ft. The elevation given by Mr. Hamilton, who also reached the summit, was 13,000 feet.

In strongly recommending this work, to which we may again refer more in detail, to the careful perusal of those who take an interest in the physical geography, the geology, or antiquities of this celebrated country, we can assure our readers that they will find the author an agreeable and lively companion, his style is easy and fluent, and every page teems with information. At the same time we cannot but think that his book would have been still more interesting had he distributed his matter differently. The simple details of physical geography are apt to become tedious if minute, unless relieved by the introduction of other matter to which they then give additional interest and importance. In connexion with an account of the geological phenomena of the country, and the many relics of antiquity with which it abounds, these details would have acquired a tenfold greater interest, and we therefore regret that M. de Tchihatcheff has been in-duced to separate these matters from the physical geography, and to reserve them for future volumes, thereby also rendering it necessary to publish one if not two more maps, and in-

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creasing the difficulty of reference. We should remark that the work is accompanied by a quarto atlas of well-executed drawings, and a large map, representing the physical features of the country, but on which we miss all indication of the ancient sites. These appear to have been purposely omitted.

Lives and Letters of the Devereux, Earls of Essex, in the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., 1540—1646. By the Hon. Walter Bourchier Devereux, Captain in the Royal Navy. Murray.

(Second Notice.) THE second Earl, like his father, found an Irish command a fatal distinction. In the year 1599 a great force was sent to Ireland to crush Tyrone's formidable rebellion, and Essex was appointed to the command as Lord-Deputy. Captain Devereux endeavours (and we think with some success) to prove that Essex "had from the first a strong aversion to the service, and accepted the office of Deputy most unwillingly." This is in opposition to the statement hitherto generally adopted on Camden's authority. Essex at first carried on the war with bravery and vigour, but soon incurred fresh displeasure on the part of the Queen, in consequence of his appointment of the Earl of Southampton (then in disgrace at court) to the office of General of the Horse in Ireland. His ene-mies at court were not idle, and at length a really just cause for the royal anger was afforded, by an injudicious and discreditable peace concluded with Tyrone in September, 1799. Before this truce had been concluded, the Earl received a letter of severe disapprobation from the Queen, which probably induced him at once to leave his command in Ireland, in order to return and justify himself in person. He was at first received somewhat graciously, but was soon committed to the custody of the Lord-Keeper. The Queen's anger was thoroughly roused, and "her fury was spent on all who had accompanied the Earl." Sir John Harrington, who had ac-companied Essex, gives the following account of his reception :-

"He had been desired to keep a journal in Ireland. 'On coming into the presence, she chafed much, walked fastly to and fro, looked with discomposure in her visage, and, I remember, catched at my girdle, when I kneeled to her, and swore, By God's son I am no Queen. That man is above me. Who gave him command to come here so soon? I did send him on other business.' She then bid Harrington go home; he 'did not stay to be bidden twice. If all the Irish rebels had been at my heels, I should not have made better speed.' After reading the journal she swore they were all idle knaves, and the Lord Deputy worse."

He fell dangerously ill, and "the report seems to have awakened a spark of old tenderness" on the part of the Queen, for she paid him a visit in person—with what object it is difficult to conjecture. He was also removed to Essex-House, and Lady Essex allowed to visit him. Ultimately, on the 5th June, 1600, he was brought before a court of eighteen commissioners at York-House, upon the Irish charges, deprived of his offices, and continued a prisoner in his own house during the Queen's pleasure. He sought her forgiveness and favour in the most submissive letters, of which this is a specimen:—

"Pardon, oh! pardon, most dear and most admired Sovereign, the freedom of this speech, for passion speaks, and I have no longer power to strive against it. If your Majesty dismiss me into

the country, as banished from your presence again, company, health, yea, life itself, will be, nay, shall be, hateful to me. I receive no grace, your Majesty shows no mercy. But if your Majesty will vouchsafe to let me once prostrate myself at your feet, and behold your fair and gracious eyes, though it be unknown to all the world but to him that your Majesty shall appoint to bring me to that paradise; yea, though afterwards your Majesty punish me, imprison me, or pronounce the sentence of death against me, your Majesty is most merciful, and I shall be most happy. That house will make your Majesty remember what I was; and this favour shall make your Majesty know both what I am, and what I will be: for your Majesty shall find that, by my fall, I am come to know both good and evil.

and evil.

"Pardon, oh! pardon, most dear Lady, for my words are, as my thoughts, confused. But if your Majesty will be pleased to assign me to any man, I will commit myself unto him; and upon my life I will pass to the place which he shall appoint me, and from thence afterwards to Ewelme Lodge, without discovery. And your Majesty's answer is . . . or mortifying to your Majesty's humblest vassal,

"Essex."

He soon afterwards obtained his liberty, but was forbidden to approach the Court, though he still continued his solicitations in the most submissive tone. We give his last letter, which is thus introduced to our notice by Capt. Devereux:—

"I shall offer to my readers but one more letter from our unfortunate Earl. It is an undated, but an original letter; and extremely remarkable, as pointing plainly to that course which brought his head to the block—the entering by force into the royal presence. There is a difficulty presented by his reference to having seen the Queen, which may be thus explained. After his release from confinement, the Countess of Warwick, a lady of great influence at Court, and a fast friend to Essex, had advised him to take an obscure lodging at Greenwich; and watching an occasion when the Queen should go forth in good humour, of which she would give him notice, to present and humble himself before her. This advice is said to have sunk deep into the mind of the Earl, who had resolved to follow it, but was dissuaded by Cuffe, who assured him he was only preparing additional disgrace and humiliation for himself. It is, however, possible that he may have presented himself and have been spurned, and, in the absence of dates, I adopt this idea.

" No. XXXVI.

" Essex to the Queen.

"This is but one of the many letters which, since I saw your Maj., I wrote, but never sent unto you; for, to write freely to a Lady that lies in wait for all things that I do or say, were too much hazard: to write in a plausible style, when I have so discontented a heart, were baseness, if not false-hood. To be silent, and to put myself suddenly into a new course of life, might be thought lightness, too much melancholy, and I know not what. By this description your Maj. seeth the state of my mind, full of confusion and contrariety. I sometimes think of running, and then remember what it will be to come in armour triumphing into that presence, out of which both by your own voice I was commanded, and by your hands thrust out. But God knows this is no sudden accident. You may tell those that thirst and gape after my ruin, that you have now an advantage, that, being in passion, I spake rashly. It is well you have that you looked for, and so have I. In holding me as you have done of late, you pleased nobody. In making this conclusion of my fortune, you shall please those you seem to favour most. But siste calame, plura de extremis loqui, pars ignava est, et incusare deos vel homines, ejus qui vivere velit."

All hope of regaining the Queen's favour being now apparently at an end, the Earl "gave himself up to rage and despair," and entered with Southampton upon those in-

trigues at the court of King James of Scotland which led to the mad attempt at insurrection, in which not only his loyalty and prudence, but even his courage, appeared to have deserted Essex. His enemies had now gained all their ends. There was no need to misrepresent or falsify acts which constituted such open and flagrant treason, nor can all our pity for the untimely fate of one so brave and noble make us dispute the justice of the sentence. The incidents of his trial and death are too well known for us to touch upon them at length; but they are detailed by Captain Devereux. As regards the well-known story of the ring, Captain Devereux says of this story, that he inclines, "after carefully examining the authorities, to believe in its truth;" and we agree with him. His comparison of the various authorities for the tale is interesting, and he also gives us an account of the two rings now in existence, each of which claims to be the identical one given by the Queen to Essex. One of them belongs to the Rev. Lord John Thynne, and the other to C. W. Warner, Esq. For the tradition in the latter case, however, there appears to be no distinct authority.

Robert Devereux, the third Earl, appears to have resembled his unfortunate father in nothing but in bravery. Upon the accession of James I., the young Earl was highly distinguished by that King; and became the playfellow of Henry Prince of Wales. One act, in which James intended to show his regard for young Essex, was the cause of a misfortune which embittered his early life. We allude to his unhappy marriage, under the King's auspices, to Lady Frances Howard. The details of the infamous divorce suit instituted by Lady Essex are given by Captain Devereux in much greater detail than was necessary. A reference to the 'State Trials' would have answered the purpose as well.

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The Earl sought relief from his matrimonial grievances in the excitement of war, and served bravely in the expedition sent by James I. to the Palatinate in 1620. He also served in Holland under Prince Maurice in 1622 and 1623, "and gained considerable reputation and distinction as a gallant soldier." He became very popular with the army, and was made Lieutenant-General of the army sent against the Scots Covenanters in 1639. Charles, with his usual unhappy want of tact, slighted and disobliged him; and at length (passing over the intermediate events) we find the Earl in command of the army levied by the Parliament against their Sovereign. Capt. Devereux here says, and says well:—

"It is beyond a doubt, that between the opinions of Essex himself, and those of Hertford and the other Lords who had joined the King, there was but a shade of difference; that Essex was no more an advocate for the abolition of royalty and the destruction of the Church of England, than Hertford, Falkland, and Southampton were friendly to the exercise of arbitrary power by the King.

the exercise of arbitrary power by the King.

"Clarendon says that Essex expressed to his friends a desire that the Parliament should be more moderate, and that 'the King, who had given so much, should receive some satisfaction;' and that he was prevented from making any approach towards the King by reports of hard words Charles was said to have used concerning him at York. In another passage, the same author observes, that Essex, believing he should be General in the Houses as well as in the field, and be able to restrain their passions and govern their councils, as well as to fight their battles, and by these means become the preserver of the King and kingdom, launched into that stormy sea where he found no safe harbour.

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"Lord Essex might have been influenced by the feelings and expectations here described, which, with our greater experience of revolutions, appear so visionary. Where is to be found the man who can say to the torrent of revolution, Thus far, and no farther, shalt thou go? To oppose it is a vain effort; the man who does so is certain to be over-turned, overwhelmed, and lost. Unguided, it rushes impetuously on, uprooting all obstacles, until, its course impeded by the wreck borne on its own bosom, the stream separates into a thousand channels, each of which runs brawling along, powerless and useless. A skilful leader, while seeming to be carried with the current, may guide and keep it within due bounds, until it settles into a broad, majestic, and beneficial stream.

"Rarely may such a leader be found, and certainly Essex was not the man to fill the post. His abilities were not of a commanding order; he was neither a skilful tactitian, nor a demagogue; he was a proud, plain-dealing, punctilious man of honour, forced by circumstances to take the lead in a movement of which he did but half approve. The result was, that instead of staying or guiding the torrent, and saving the kingdom, his name, his reputation, and his influence only served as a stepping-stone to those able and unscrupulous men, of iron will and stern enthusiasm, who, in carrying out their passionate declaration of undying hatred to tyranny and bigotry, murdered their lawful sovereign, and in the place of the reverential observances and beautiful prayers of the Church of England, set up a familiar and profane cant."

There can, we think, be no doubt of the sincerity, though misguided, of Essex; and the effect of this work has been on the whole to raise our opinion both of his abilities and his integrity. His true merit in respect of the party espoused by him at the Revolution was (as Mr. Hallam observes in his 'Constitutional History') that he came forward to accept a command which no one else of equal rank or station was capable of filling, and thus rendered himself the most promi-nent object of the King's vengeance in case of failure. He evidently avoided pushing the King to extremities, and showed himself too desirous of peace for the root and branch men, as their views gradually developed. But he resisted all attempts of the King to tamper with him, and showed thorough fidelity to the Parliament. He was, however, undoubtedly wanting in the qualities of a great genethough his courage was unquestioned, and a high state of discipline and good order maintained in his army. The self-denying ordinance, which was forced through the Houses of Parliament, ultimately deprived Essex of his command, and his death followed in less than two years. He received the honour of a public funeral, of great magnificence for those days. Captain Devereux, in the appendix to his book, has given an account of this funeral procession, and some curious and interesting extracts from accounts relating to the personal expenditure of the first and second Earls.

Mark Hurdlestone, the Gold Worshipper.
By Mrs. Moodie, author of 'Roughing it in the Bush.' 2 vols. Bentley

in the Bush.' 2 vols. Bentley.

In her former work, 'Roughing it in the Bush,' Mrs. Moodie gave a graphic picture of 'Life in Canada,' and a most interesting and amusing description of an emigrant's adventures and occupations in that country. To the present novel is prefixed an introduction, containing additional notices of her experiences as a settler, with a special account of the literary resources and employments which she has found in the land of her adoption. These thirty pages of autobiography

are to us far more attractive than the story to which they stand as a preface. They give a picture of real life, compared with which the most elaborate scenes of fiction appear tame and commonplace. Believing that most of our readers would coincide with us in this opinion. and also feeling that for the novel itself we will best secure a favourable regard by raising the estimate of its author, we present some passages of this autobiographical preface. It has value not only as relating to the character of an accomplished and amiable writer, the story of whose life is not without useful lessons, but also as affording notices of the state of literature in Canada, about which little is known in England compared with our knowledge of the literature of the United States:-

"The story of Mark Hurdlestone, the Gold Worshipper, which I here present to the British public, forms the first of a series, that employed my pen during the long, cold, winter nights of 1838-9; when the protracted absence of my husband on the frontier rendered the privations and solitude of my forest home more hard to bear.

"In the fall of 1837 a magazine was started by Messrs. Lovell and Gibson in Montreal. In the December of that year Mr. Lovell wrote to me to obtain contributions from my pen, both in prose and verse, for the new-born periodical. With a generosity unusual in this country he requested me

generosity unterest.

"An offer so unexpected and so liberal from a perfect stranger appeared like a message sent to me from heaven; and, poor as I then was, I felt tempted to contribute what I could gratis. But my infant family of four small children, the eldest not quite six years old, put an effectual check upon my impulsive generosity. I found upon reflection that this was entirely out of my power. Time to me was money—it belonged by right to my family, and was too valuable a commodity to give away. I therefore named five pounds per sheet, as the price required for articles from my pen, which had to be written after the labours of the day were over, and the children were asleep in their beds. The magazine was of large size, with double columns, and in very small type. It required a great deal of writing to fill a sheet.

"Strange as it may appear to the reader, these literary labours were a great refreshment to me, instead of an additional fatigue. They helped to fill up the hungry void at my heart, occasioned by the long absence of my husband; and I forgot the hardships and privations of my lot, whilst rousing into action, after long disuse, the powers and energies of my mind. And then the reward was so great, so unhoped-for; it seemed an answer to my earnest prayers, that I might be able to do something to help us out of our difficulties, and supply my family with the common necessaries of life. It was a joy to me that I was writing for bread, and with the prospect of winning it; and I was amply rewarded by the delight of the children, when the labours of these winter nights purchased shoes for their little bare feet, and procured them warm and comfortable clothing."

Great changes have taken place in Canada with respect to literature during the last twenty years. A large proportion of the emigrants were entirely uneducated, while the better classes, absorbed in mercantile or in agricultural pursuits, had little time or leisure for encouraging learning:—

"Since 1832 the colony has made rapid strides in moral and intellectual improvement. It is really wonderful to remark the great change which a few years under a more liberal government has effected in the condition of the people. Education was then confined to a very few; it is now diffused through the whole length and breadth of the land. Every large town has its college and grammarschool, and free schools abound in every district. The poorest child may be taught to read and write at the public expense. His parents have only to

wash his hands and face, and send him to school; and the eagerness with which the poorer class seize every opportunity of improving their mental powers, in the hope of raising themselves to an equality with their wealthier neighbours, will soon place this great and rising country on an equal footing with the mighty republic, whose gigantic strides to political and commercial importance may perhaps be traced to the education of her people.

"There is now no lack of books in Canada, of money to purchase them, and persons to read and understand them. The reading class is no longer confined to the independent and wealthy: mechanics and artisans are all readers when they have time to spare; and the cheap American reprints of the best European works enable them to gratify their taste, without drawing very largely upon their purse.

purse.

"The traffic in books from the United States employs a great many young men, who travel through the country, selling and taking up subscriptions for new works; and the astonishingly low price at which they can be obtained is an incalculable benefit to the colony, however it may interfere with the rights of European publishers.

"Of books published in the colony, we have very few indeed; and those which have been issued from a Canadian press have generally been got out, either by subscription, or at the expense of the author. It is almost impossible for any work published in Canada to remunerate the bookseller, while the United States can produce reprints of the works of the first writers in the world, at a quarter the expense. The same may be said of the different magazines which have been published in the colony."

Mrs. Moodie gives a very discouraging account of the Magazine literature of the colony:—

"Shortly after we came to Canada, a magazine was started in Toronto, called the 'Canadian Literary Magazine,' edited by Mr. Kent, a gentleman of considerable talent; and his list of contributors embraced some of the cleverest men in the Colony. This periodical, though a very fair specimen of that species of literature, and under the immediate patronage of the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Colborne, only reached its third number, and died for want of support.

or want or support.

"Another monthly, bearing the same title, minus
the 'Literary,' was issued the same year; but
being inferior in every respect to its predecessor,
it never reached a third number.

"A long time elapsed between the disappearance of these unfortunate attempts at a national periodical and the appearance of the 'Montreal Literary Garland,' which was published at the most exciting period of Canadian history, on the eve of her memorable rebellion, which proved so fatal to its instigators, and of such incalculable herefit to the Colonia.

benefit to the Colony.

"For twelve years the 'Literary Garland' obtained a wide circulation in the Colony, and might still have continued to support its character as a popular monthly periodical, had it not been done to death by 'Harper's Magazine' and the 'Inter-

"These American monthlies, got up in the first style, handsomely illustrated, and composed of the best articles selected from European and American magazines, are sold at such a low rate, that one or the other is to be found in almost every decent house in the province. It was utterly impossible for a colonial magazine to compete with them; for, like the boy mentioned by St. Pierre, they enjoyed the advantage of stealing the brooms ready made.

"It is greatly to the credit of the country that

"It is greatly to the credit of the country that for so many years she supported a publication like the 'Garland,' and much to be regretted that a truly Canadian publication should be put to silence by a host of foreign magazines, which were by no means superior in literary merit. The 'Literary Garland' languished during the years 1850 and 1851, and finally expired in the December of the latter."

To the 'Montreal Literary Garland' Mrs.

Moodie was a regular contributor, and in its pages appeared the tale now presented to the English public. Three other attempts to establish a Canadian magazine met with no more permanent success. Of the last of these Mrs. Moodie and her husband were editors:

"In 1848, Mr. Moodie and myself undertook the joint editorship of a cheap monthly magazine published in Belleville, under the title of the 'Victoria Magazine.' This periodical was issued at the low price of five shillings per annum, and was chiefly intended as a periodical for the people. It had a good circulation, for the brief period of its existence, which only lasted until the end of the year, when the failure of its proprietor, who was engaged in several literary speculations, put a stop to its further progress. Our subscription list contained eight hundred names: all of these subscribers had paid their twelvemonths' subscriptions in advance, and Mr. W—— must have been a considerable gainer by the publication, although we received nothing for our trouble. The greater portion of the articles, and all the reviews and notices of new works, were written by us. Had we been able to purchase the magazine, and carry it on as our own property, I feel very little doubt of its success."

As the result of her editorial experience, Mrs. Moodie remarks that the Canadian people are more practical than imaginative, and that the usual contents of a literature are little adapted to the taste of the bulk of the people. Of the contributions sent to the editors the eleverest were by persons born and educated in the old country, nothing of value appearing that could be ranked under the head of Canadian talent. It is very different with political writing:—

"Every small town in the province has its rival newspapers: and many possess three or four, that pay their own way, and afford a comfortable living to their proprietors. These papers vary in price from seven shillings and sixpence per annum to twenty shillings, and the postage to the most distant town in the colony does not exceed a halfpenny. A really good newspaper enjoys a wide circulation, not only in its own district, but all over the colony.

"A Canadian newspaper is a strange mélange of polities, religion, abuse, and general information. It contains, in a condensed form, all the news of the Old and the New World, and informs its readers of what is passing on the great globe, from the North Pole to the gold mines of Australia and California. So much matter has to be contained in so small a space, that no room remains for dulness, and should a spare column occur, it is always filled up by the droll sayings and doings of brother Jonathan, or clever extracts and reviews of new works just issued from the ever-teeming American press. There is no restraint upon the freedom of the press in Canada. Men speak their thoughts boldly and freely. Ay, and print them too, and often run mad in the exuberance of their liberty, if you may judge of their sanity by the intemperate language used in these local journals.

"The Canadian cannot get on without his newspaper any more than an American could without his tobacco. The 'New York Albion,' and the 'Tribune,' edited by Horace Greeley, have likewise a wide circulation in Canada. and there is a host of temperance papers and religious magazines published in the province.

"Every large town has its Mechanics' Institute and debating societies, which tend generally to foster a love of literature, and draw out the mental resources of the community. Men of education deliver lectures gratis at these institutes, and are sure to obtain a good audience."

Of the social condition of the Canadian population a curious picture is given in a letter to Mr. Moodie from a poor Irish emigrant, Michael Ryan, some of whose effusions, in verse as well as prose, prove him to be 'a man of genius':—

"CAPTAIN,-Mrs. Moodie says, 'That there is no standard here to measure the gentleman by. The devil a one is there. In this section of the globe common honesty, to say nothing of honour and its high notions, is an article seldom or never to be met with. There is nothing among us but the Bite,—and, the more dexterous the knave, the more he is looked-not down upon-but up to. When a person is outwitted in a bargain, or outsworn in a suit of law, he is reckoned a mere fool, and laughed at for his simplicity; while the sharper that shaves him is held up as an object deserving imitation. 'A smart turn that, wasn't it?' 'Ho! that's the boy to get along! He'd live and grow fat where others starve to death!' Just so. vellers may talk of the tricksy tribes of Africa; but they are no more than one day old chickens, when compared to the swindlers of Canada. She can produce chaps by the churchful, who would not scruple to stick the leek into Saint Peter's herring scow. Still, you would think, from their lugubrious mugs, that they were angels upon earth, you would. Yes, you would. Bad luck to such hypocrisy I say. "MICHAEL RYAN." hypocrisy I say.

This letter, Mrs. Moodie says, contains "more truth than poetry." Michael Ryan is a poet nevertheless, and the specimens given in these pages show much ingenuity and good feeling. But we must leave room to say a few words about Mrs. Moodie's tale.

Mark Hurdlestone is a miser, son of a wretched old country squire of the same caste, and he has a younger brother, Algerbarder, and he has a younger brother, and he was a proper brother and a second se non, frank, open-hearted, and open-handed, in everything a contrast in character to the gold worshipper. They both love the same girl, and Algernon gains her heart, but on account of his being cut off by his father he goes abroad to acquire some fortune before claiming Elinor's hand. Meanwhile out of jealousy and hatred, his brother, after making Elinor believe by a forged letter that Algernon was dead, marries her. Algernon marries another, and it is only at his father's death he learns how he has been wronged. He obtains from the miser the charge of Elinor's only son, who is brought up with his own children. Mark Hurdlestone becomes involved with some nefarious associates, and through these Algernon is brought into sad troubles. With these characters a tale of terrible incidents is told. One passage will suffice to show the style of Mrs. Moodie's writing. It is where the miser is in the delirium of a fever, tended by his broken-hearted

"" Oh, Algernon! she thought; it may be a crime, but I sometimes think that if I could see you once more—only once more—I could forget all

my wrongs and sufferings, and die in peace."

"The unuttered thought was scarcely formed, when a slight rustling noise shook the curtains of the bed, and the next moment a tall figure in white glided across the room. It drew nearer, and Elinor, in spite of the wish she had just dared to whisper to herself, struggled with the vision, as a sleeper does with the nightmare, when the suffocating grasp of the fiend is upon his throat. Her presence of mind forsook her, and, with a shriek of uncontrollable terror, she flung herself across the bed, and endeavoured to awaken her husband. The place he had occupied a few minutes before was vacant; and, raising her fear-stricken head, she perceived, with feelings scarcely less allied to fear, that the figure she had mistaken for the ghost of Algernon was the corporeal form of the miser.

"He was asleep, but his mind appeared to be actively employed. He drew near the table with a cautious step, and took from beneath a broad leathern belt, which he always wore next his skin, a small key. Elinor sat up on the bed, and watched his movements with intense interest. He next took up the candle, and glided out of the room.

Slipping off her shoes she followed him with noise-less steps. He descended the great staircase, and suddenly stopped in the centre of the entrance hall. Here he put down the light on the last step of the broad oak stairs, and proceeded to remove one of the stone flags that formed the pavement of the hall. With some difficulty he accomplished his task: then kneeling down, and holding the light over the chasm, he said in hollow and unearthly tones, that echoed mournfully though the empty building:—

"'Look! here is money: my father's savings

"Look! here is money: my father's savings and my own. Will this save my soul?"

"Elinor leaned over the sordid wretch, and discovered with no small astonishment that the aperture contained a great quantity of gold and silver coins; and the most valuable articles of the family plate and iewels.

plate and jewels.

"'Unhappy man!' she mentally cried; 'dost
thou imagine that these glittering heaps of metal
will purchase the redemption of a soul like thine,
or avert the certainty of future punishment?—for
never was the parable of the servant who buried
his talent in the dust more fully exemplified than
in thee.'

"'What, not enough?' growled forth the miser.
'By heavens! thou hast a human conscience. But
wait patiently, and I will show you more—ay,
more—my brother's portion, and my own. Ha,
ha! I tricked him there. The old man's heart
failed him at the last. He was afraid of you. Yes,
yes, he was afraid of the devil! It was I formed
the plan. It was I guided the dead hand. Shall
I burn for that?'

"Then, as if suddenly struck with a violent pain, he shrieked out, 'Ah, ah! my brain is cloven with a bolt of fire. I cannot bear this! Algernon mocks my agonies—laughs at my cries—and tells me that he has a fair wife and plenty of gold, in spite of my malice. How did he get it? Did he rob me?

malice. How did he get it? Did he rob me?

"Elinor shrunk back aghast from this wild burst
of delirium; and the miser, rising from his knees,
began re-ascending the stairs. This task he performed with difficulty, and often reeled forward
with extreme pain and weakness."

The tale deals, as may be perceived, largely with the horrible. Some passages are written with much power, but the general impression from the story is not agreeable, nor do we think that this style of fiction is worthy of Mrs. Moodie's talents and taste. It is well that the novel only extends to two volumes, of which we wish that the introduction had formed a far larger portion.

A Monograph of the Trochilidæ or Humming Birds. Parts 1 to 4. By John Gould, F.R.S. Published by the Author.

The fame which Mr. Gould has achieved by the publication of his beautifully illustrated 'Birds of Europe' and 'Birds of Australia,' is more than sustained by that of his 'Humming Birds.' Owing to the peculiar metallic brilliancy of their plumage, greater difficulties presented themselves to the artist with these subjects than with any that had gone before, and how to transfer their lustre to the paper with something like reality was a problem not easily solved. The naturalist, however, whose persevering spirit of enterprise had carried him gun in hand to the antipodes, for the sake of exploring the ornithology of a new fauna, and of presenting it lifelike to the world, was not to be daunted in this crowning effort of his pencil. Mr. Gould brought his alchemy to bear with a sagacity equal to the occasion, and success has been the deserved though tardy result. We cannot say that he has sat over his crucible for years like poor Palissy, when striving to acquire the art of porcelain enamelling, but it has not been obtained without patient labour and

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a few failures. Nor has he suffered, like the zealous potter, from discouragement and the world's neglect. The career of our great ornithologist has been, we rejoice to learn, The career of our great one of progressive comfort and plenty, tempered doubtless by such occasional hardships as are comcomitant with a life of adventures, but sweetened abundantly by the pleasures that flow out of an ingenuous blending of the pursuits of science with alacrity and the prudential requirements of daily life. equal industry and fewer empirical experiments, Mr. Gould has acquired the art of portraying the metallic colouring of birds in all its varities and hues, and we welcome this first example of the process as a valuable and important advance in the illustration of ob-

jects of natural history.

All who visited the beautiful collection of Humming Birds which Mr. Gould exhibited last year in the Zoological Gardens, must have been struck with their curious forms and brilliant colouring; and we learn from the work before us how exquisitely these are adapted, geographically and physically, to surrounding circumstances. The *Trochilida* are all inhabitants of the New World, principally of the tropical parts, but ranging, during their migratory flights in the warm season, as far north, even, as Nootka Sound; and while there is hardly a species that has not the appearance of being born and bred in the glowing atmosphere of the equator; yet there are some, clad, nevertheless, in gay attire, whose habitat reaches to an elevation of 12,000 feet, and nearly to the snow line. The bill of these feathered gems is often curiously adapted to the form of the flowers into which they dive for subsistence. the corolla is long and tubular, the bill is elongated accordingly; and where it is curved, the bill of its feeder is also curved. Then the legs of many of these tiny ornithological fairies are booted with delicate wool-tufts, and the rapid vibratory movement of their wings enables them to flit about humming and buzzing in a manner truly marvellous Good generic characters are also furnished by their various modes of nest-building. Some kinds build at the extremities of dangling leaves; others, suspended from rocks; and others construct nests of the neatest symmetry on twigs, scarcely larger than an acorn cup. The greater number of Mr. Gould's 'Birds of Australia' were figured from specimens of his own killing and stuffing, but he has not visited the country of the Humming Birds. The valuable information here given of their localities and habits, is collected chiefly from travellers and residents in the countries they inhabit.

Of a bright flame-tailed species called 'The Sappho Comet' (Cometes sparganurus), Mr. Gould gives the following account, received from M. Bourcier, French Consul at Quito:—

"One of the principal summer haunts of this bird is Chuquesaca, in the interior of Bolivia; it appears when the fruit trees of the country are in flower, and is met with in the greatest abundance among the flowers of the Capuli, a kind of cherry-tree; it also visits the orchards and the gardens of the city during the blossoming of the apple-trees; it is by no means shy, and the males, which are constantly at war, chase each other with the utmost fury, uttering at the same time a sharp cry whenever one bird invades another's territory. It arrives in the environs of Chuquesaqua in the months of September and October, and takes up its residence in the shrubberies of the city, and in the gardens of the Indian cottages; the hill sides of the neighbouring country, clothed with indigenous trees

and shrubs, also afford it a fit place of abode, whence it descends several times a day to the cultivated plains below, particularly to the fields of maize, pulse, and other leguminous plants; the rich flowers of the larger Cacti are also frequently visited, as they afford it a constant and abundant supply of insect food. Soon after their arrival, the task of incubation is commenced; and when the summer is over, both the old and young, actuated as it were by the same impulse, wend their way northward, to return again when the spring has once more gladdened the earth.

"The nest is a somewhat loose structure, outwardly composed of interlaced vegetable fibres, slight twigs, moss, &c., and frequently lined with soft hair, like that of the Viscacha (Sagortomus trichodactylus), with the lower portion prolonged considerably below the bottom of the cup-shaped interior, which is about an inch and a half in diameter and an inch in depth, the total length of the nest averaging from two and a half to three inches. The nest is placed in situations similar to those selected for the like purpose by the spotted Flycatcher (Musicapa grisola), namely, against the sides of the gully, supported or entirely suspended by any hanging root or twig that may be best adapted to afford it security; the part of the nest next the wall is much thicker, but of a looser texture, than the circular portion of the true structure. The eggs are two in number, oblong in form, of a pure white, and about half an inch in length, by about five-sixteenths in breadth.

"The difficulty of shooting these birds is inconceivably great, from the extraordinary turns and evolutions they make when on the wing, at one instant darting headlong into a flower, at the next describing a circle in the air with such rapidity, that the eye, unable to follow the movement, loses sight of it until it again returns to the flowers which first attracted its attention."

One more extract from another letter of the same gentleman will suffice to show the interesting material which Mr. Gould has here collected together. It is concerning a species called *Rhamphomicron Stanleyi*, in honour of the present Earl of Derby:—

"A few days ago, accompanied by two Indians, I attempted an ascent of the mountain Pichincha, a volcano so called, situated about three leagues and a half to the west north-west of the city of Quito: but which is not usually reached until after a seven or eight hours' march. Part of the journey may be easily performed on horseback, but on attaining a certain elevation you are compelled to quit your horses, and let them await your return; fortunately the uninhabited position permits of your tethering them without fear of robbers. From this point the ascent became very difficult, as we had continually to climb over the heap of pumice stones with which the steep sides of the mountain were strewn. But how can I describe to you the magnificent picture which, after having surmounted these obstacles, met our delighted gaze? Picture to yourself two craterformed cavities, separated by a trachytic wall, from the bottom of which opens nearly forty mouths vomiting smoke. We were at a height above the level of the sea, corresponding with the summit of Mont Blanc, without a trace of vegetation around us; it was the desert in its majesty and its silence. The condor, alone, the king of these elevated solitudes, hovered above these desert places, his eternal domain. At our feet were immense gullies, of which the distance disguised their vast depth. They had been formed without doubt by the dreadful eruptions of which history and tradition have preserved the most unhappy remembrances. Unfortunately, we had proceeded in the direction of the most abruptly elevated point, and were obliged to make a detour of three quarters of a league to find a more gradual ascent; nevertheless, it was still from 400 to 500 metres. This delayed my arrival at the middle of the desert circle, and prevented me from approaching near to these breathing-holes, which perhaps preserve the country from fresh eruptions of the volcanoes, and from exploring with ornithological views a country

too rarely visited. Then think of the troubles and dangers to be encountered before being repaid! To decend these steep declivities, one is obliged to support oneself on one's hands, and occasionally to slide over the surface. Often the calcined accumu-lations on which you tread pulverize under your feet, causing those around to lose their equilibrium and draw others after them, the falling masses frequently menacing the life of the traveller. After four hours of fatigue, alleviated by the hope of pleasures to come, we arrived at the wished-for destination, and found ourselves in a crater of a sixth and found ourselves in a crater of a circular or rather slightly oval form surrounded by a kind of wall of trachyte of a uniform elevation, except on the western side, where it is cut down for the passage of the waters, which falling into the Esmeralda, carry their tribute to the Pacific Ocean. In this sort of inclosure arises an elevated cone, from whence are emitted numerous jets of sulphurous acid, and from whence escapes, accompanied by a slight noise, a watery vapour. In some of these breathing-holes, the sulphur is condensed into crystals; and in many places the ground is covered with pulverized pumice or black cinders, which renders one fearful of approaching them. The earth presents crevices, the depth of which the eye dares scarcely measure, and some of which must be at least 200 metres deep; they gather the rain and snow waters, and become the beds of rivulets, which flow westward. These ravines, or quebrados, as the Indians call them, frequently obliged us to make lengthy detours, and to waste a considerable amount of time. The sides of those of moderate depth were carpeted with verdure and ornamented with various shrubs. Here it was that I had the pleasure of discovering the Trochilus Stanleyi, a lovely species, which rifles flowers of the Chuquiraga insignis, a plant so named by the illustrious Humboldt, of which it appears to be an ardent lover, conjointly with T. pichincha, with which species it is continually at

"I found that it would require a week completely to explore these wilds; but how were we to carry the necessary provisions? and how could I hope for fine weather at such an elevation for an entire week? On the present occasion, I had been favoured in this latter respect beyond my hopes; to a magnificent day succeeded a beautiful night, during which the moon, at its full, lent a fairy charm to the scene. Wrapt in our ponchos, a kind of cloak of the country, we awaited the return of day; reclining upon stones, and sheltered by a rock, in spite of the inconvenience of the position we enjoyed the pleasures of a deep sleep upon this menacing soil, which, in a moment of caprice, might launch us into eternity. The next day, unexpected troubles attended us; in order to rethe rocks which formed the barrier to the enclosure, we were obliged to pick our way along a sandy soil, in which we sank up to our creep; and in order to keep along this quicksand, which continually yielded to our feet, we had to support ourselves by rocks, which as frequently broke away beneath our fingers. Arriving at last, after many long and weary hours, on the highest elevation of this impracticable ground, we found ourselves in the Paramos mountains, used for the pasturage of cattle. Here the winds blew at once with such violence, and a blast so keen, that I twice essayed to continue my route before I could muster courage We now took again to our horses, with so to do. which we soon gained the woody slopes, clothed with various species of Datura, and the rich plains which lead to the city. On re-entering Quito, all my troubles were forgotten, while the pleasure of having made a new discovery remained in-pressed upon my memory, coupled with a vivid recollection of the interesting scene in which it had occurred."

Mr. Gould's plates have a botanical as well as an ornithological interest. Care has been taken to select the particular plants peculiar to the localities frequented by each species of Trochilidæ, and many of them are as new to science as the birds.

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NOTICES.

History of the Origin of Representative Government in Europe. By M. Guizot. Translated by Andrew R. Scoble. Bohn.

THE substance of this work, of which an English translation is here presented, first appeared in the Journal des Cours Publiques, in reports of the lectures delivered by M. Guizot, as Professor of History in the Collège de France, in 1820-22. Having lately been requested to authorize a reprint of lately been requested to authorize a reprint of these lectures, originally published without the revision of the author, M. Guizot has reproduced his course of lectures on Representative Government, in the same completeness as he has already given to the Lectures on the General History of Civilization in Europe, and on the History of Civilization in France. The first part of the work gives the history of representative institutions in England, France, and Spain, from the fifth to the eleventh century. The second part gives in greater detail the history of representative government in England, from the Conquest till the reign of the Tu-The accurate research and profound philosophy of the author are apparent in every portion of the treatise. The part relating to the representa-tive government of our own country will be studied special interest by English readers. No living foreigner has more deeply and discerningly studied the history and the constitution of England. In the brief preface to the work M. Guizot speaks with as much frankness as circumstances permit of the present condition of France. In reply to the question, "Can we still believe and hope in repre-sentative government and monarchy?" he thinks that there is no ground for 'sceptical despondency,' even though 'the essential and necessary princi ples of all representative government are precisely those which in our days are ignored and outraged.' These principles are faithfully expounded and learnedly illustrated in this work, which is a valuable contribution, both to the materials and to the philosophy of history.

Seceder from Romanism. An Autobiography.

2 vols. John W. Parker and Son.

THE title of this tale is almost sufficient to suggest the subject of it. Fraud, rapacity, cruelty, and crime are ever the characteristics of Jesuitism, and the members of the order are skilful and powerful the members of the order are skillul and powerful in all cases where they are able to touch the property of the helpless or the dependent. Few of the wrongs perpetrated by these spiritual banditti ever reach the public ear, yet even the courts of law occasionally reveal the dark doings of Jesuit executorship. The present work professes to be an article and there is nothing in it inconsists. autobiography, and there is nothing in it inconsist-ent with its being a story of real life. The perils which environ those who are exposed to Jesuit in-fluences are vividly set forth in the narrative. The book does not directly attack any religious tenets, but it exposes the mental and social despotism exercised by those who hold particular doctrines of the Roman Catholic church. Some parts of the work are very powerfully written, and display graphic power and dramatic effect. The appendix contains facts and documents which illustrate and establish the truth of the statements of the story. The Jesuits have, at various times, been expelled even from Roman Catholic countries. A work like the present shows good reasons for the feelings en-tertained towards them in England, and reveals the social wrongs which are often done by those who wear the mask of religion. The characters are ably drawn, and the incidents of the narrative told with much skill and power.

Beauty. A Poem. By the Author of 'Silent Love.'
Hardwicke.

MR. ANDREW PARK is a voluminous writer of minor miscellaneous poems, many of which have been favourably received in his native land of Scotland. But large deductions must be made from the flattering exaggeration of local critics. His 'Silent Love' was said by 'Chambers's Journal' to have Love' was said by 'Chambers's Journal' to have "strains as musical as Pope's, feelings as impassioned yet as delicate as those of Tasso." Chambers's Journal of Tasso. bers is a very good authority on matters of fact,

but of poetry his estimate is of less value. Without comparing Mr. Park with Pope, Tasso, or, as others have done, with Campbell and Burns, we regard his lyrical productions as of a superior kind, rked by much warmth and delicacy of feeling, and occasional force and felicity of expression. His new poem of 'Beauty' is a contemplative and philosophical musing on the varied forms and phases of beauty, material and moral. The beauty of nature, of art, and of soul, are severally expressed in a variety of stanzas, a few of which will exhibit the style and metre of the poem :-

ie and metre of the poem: "O beauteous flowers! stars of the garden fair! What varied charms have fallen to your share? The softly-blending, bright, prismatic hues, Wash'd every morn by heaven-distilling dews! Gems of the earth! essence of all most sweet, In colour, form, and loveliness complete, A book of fond divinity, where all May read his Maker, prior to the fall!

"All things are beautiful! however strange, However prone to fragileness or change; There is a beauty ever in its prime, Whate'er the given period of the time—So with old age, though beauty is not green, It still in riper loneliness is seen; So with rose-leaves, though they no longer bloom, Yet do they yield a delicate perfume.

"All things are beautiful! We cannot move By hill or glen, by valley, rill, or grove, But round our path the soul-enlighten'd eye Sees something strange while thoughtful pass And deeper down than mankind can behold, The earth is rich with purest gems and gold; No place, no spot where marvels may not be Hid in the womb of dark futurity.

"The tainted mind of falsehood knows full well How beautiful is truth, and would excel The thing itself, by mimicry and art, But imitation cannot reach the heart; All relish modest truth; Ay! even he Whose life is but a whole hypocrisy: But habit—Nature's counterfeit—obtains, Despite of all his schemes and all his pains."

The concluding stanza expresses well all that can

The concluding stanza expresses well all that or be said on the theory and philosophy of beauty:

"Ask not, then, What is beauty? "Tis a spell We scarce can name, although we know it well, Wherever it exists, the soul-lit eye Sees it is there, though he can scarce say why. It has a power to captivate the mind; The very savage at a glance grows kind! Though varied in its semblance and its style, Still it exists, and rules us all the while!"

Mr. Park is preparing for publication, in a single volume, the substance of his various poems, a work which will be deservedly popular with many readers.

SUMMARY.

THE republication of series of articles which have been favourably received in periodicals is now of frequent occurrence. The Autobiography of Digby Grand, from Fraser's Magazine, by J. G. Whyte Melville, is one of the recent works most worthy of the complete and permanent form in which it is now presented. Two volumes of more entertaining reading have rarely been provided of late years for the admirers of a light, dashing style of writing, with many truthful sketches of life and character, and much shrewdness of observation and liveliness and much streweness of boservation and riverness of feeling. Mr. Whyte Melville's military stories are quite as amusing, and have less exaggeration in them, than those of Charles O'Malley, to whose style the work presents some resemblance.

The Tenth volume of the Library Edition of the

Waverley Novels presents The Monastery, in beautiful typography, as all the new issues of the Waver-ley works are, and embellished with a fine portrait of Lord James Stewart, afterwards the Regent Murray, and a well-engraved vignette from a

design by E. Landseer.

The Third and concluding volume has appeared, at New York, of the second series of Richard Hildreth's History of the United States of America, from the adoption of the Federal Constitution to the end of the sixteenth Congress. The present volume embraces the period of the presidency of Madison and of Monroe, and brings the history down to the spring of 1821, when Monroe's first term of office expired. The re-annexation of Florida to the Anglo-American dominion, the recognised exten-

sion of the United States' limits to the shores of the Pacific, and the partition of the new territories between slavery and freedom, mark the close of the epoch embraced in Mr. Hildreth's work. The slave interest, according to the author, at that period assumed the position which has since threatened the stability of the union. "From that point," are the concluding words of the book, "our politics of to-day take their departure." We doubt whether sufficient interest will be felt in Mr. Hildreth's history to justify its being reprinted in this country, but it is one of the most valuable works hitherto imported from America.

A new edition is issued, the fourth, of Carpenter's Comprehensive Dictionary of English Synonyms, a very useful little manual for all who have occasion to consult such a work in literary composition, the collection of synonyms being copious, and the arrangement of the book well adapted for easy reference. The editor justly remarks, that a dictionary of this kind "is consulted rather to assist the memory than to inform the judgment where it is untaught." The lists of words are therefore alone given, without the explanatory or philological remarks. To the general dictionaries of the language, and to large books of synonyms, those are referred who desire fuller information. The present edition contains about a thousand words more than previously appeared in the work, and above thirteen hundred synonymical terms

added to former catalogues. In Murray's Railway Reading, Lord Mahon's Joan of Arc is reprinted from his 'Historical Essays.' The article originally appeared as a Essays. The article originally appeared as a review in the Quarterly, in 1842. Recent re-searches in France have given great interest to a story initself of enduring fame and general romance, the spirit of which is given in Lord Mahon's well written narrative. In the Traveller's Library, No. 37, Ferdinand I. and Maximilian II. of Austria, by Professor Ranke, is translated by Sir Austria, by Professor Ranke, is translated by Sir Alexander and Lady Duff Gordon. In this masterly historical essay, Professor Ranke gives a view of the religious and political state of Germany after the Reformation. The great question relating to the Catholic reaction of the latter part of the sixteenth century, suggested by Ranke's 'History of the Popes,' and which are ably brought out in Manusley's great in the Edinburgh Ranke's wifer for Macaulay's essay in the Edinburgh Review (reprinted in The Traveller's Library, No. 8.) are, in the story of Ferdinand I. and Maximilian II., historically illustrated. These questions are here viewed, not in a theological and universal, but in viewed, not in a theological and universal, but in a national and political light, and the lessons conveyed by the history are of direct application to our own times. As is neatly expressed in the prefatory note of the translators, "from the influence of religious differences upon political questions at the time of which he treats, he draws a warning moral for the use of his countrymen at the present day. It seemed to me as though the author might say to England, rather than to Germany—de te fabula narratur." It is a book of really political as well as historical importance.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Adams's (C. W.) Spring in Canterbury Settlement, 5s. 6d. Bastiat's (M. F.) Political Economy, foolscap Svo, 3s. 6d. Blanc's (Drapeau) Flight of the Pigeon, post Svo, 7s. 6d. Blood's (Rev. W.) Indians, &c., 12mo, 5s.; gilt, 5s. 6d. Blood's (Rev. W.) Indians, &c., 12mo, 5s.; gilt, 5s. 6d. Blood's (Rev. W.) Indians, &c., 12mo, 5s.; gilt, 5s. 6d. Carpenter's (Mary) Juvenile Delinquents, post Svo, 6s. Cumming's (Dr.) Christ receiving Sinners, new ed., 2s. 6d. Deckinson's (John) Poems, foolscap Svo, cloth, 4s. Dod's Parliamentary Companion, 1853, 18mo, 4s. 6d. Dickinson's (John) India, &c., Svo, cloth, 4s. 6d. Dickinson's (John) India, &c., Svo, cloth, 4s. 6d. Dickinson's (John) India, &c., Svo, cloth, 4s. 6d. Sisher's Chapters on Teachings of Roman Church, 3s. 6d. Foster's Pocket Peerage, 1853, 18mo, cloth, 6s. Garden's (F.) Lent Lectures, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d. Gault's (Rev. R.) Popery the Man of Sin, post Svo, 5s. Gaborne's (L.) The Isthmus of Darien in 1852, p. Svo, 6s. Hail's (S. T.) Peak and the Plain, post Svo, cloth, 5s. Hardwick's Twenty Sermons, crown Svo, cloth, 6s. 6d. Hawthorne's (N.) Life of President Pearce, feap. Svo, 3s. Herbert's Legend of Pembroke Castle, 2 vols, p. Svo, 3s. Herbert's Legend of Pembroke Castle, 2 vols, p. Svo, 3s. Herbert's Legend of Pembroke Castle, 2 vols, p. Svo, 2s. Hill's (F.) Crime; its Amount, Causes, and Remedies, 12s. Hill's (F.) Crime; its Amount, Causes, and Remedies, 12s. Historical Prints of England and Greece, 2 vols., 2s. 6d. Hopkins's (Rev. W. B.) Apostolic Missions, Svo, cloth, 5s.

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Yon Schonberg's Travels in India and Kashmir, 2 vols., &l 1s.

Wonders of Travel, illustrated, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.

Wright's Hellenica, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.

THE CALORIC SHIP ERICSSON.

(From the New 'York Literary World.')
On Tuesday, the eleventh day of January, in the
year 1853, the caloric ship Ericsson made its first
public essay. The Ericsson got under weigh from
her anchorage off the Battery at half-past nine
o'clock, and proceeding out of the harbour, through
the Narrows into the lower bay, to a distance of
about twelve miles, returned at half-past twelve,
having accomplished the trip without a stoppage
or hindrance, or any untoward result.

The invited guests on board were principally members of the press of New York. The Ericsson was thus confidently submitted to the judgment of the public opinion of our metropolis; and the expression of that public opinion, as manifested on the succeeding day, in the leading column of every journal in our city, was a unanimous acknowledgment of the triumphant success of the great invention of Ericsson.

I was on board the caloric ship on this occasion, was a witness of this triumph, and I mark it as an era in my life. I could not resist a courteous summons like this: "Captain Ericsson is very desirous of having an opportunity of explaining to you the principles and operation of the Caloric Engine, and for the purpose proposes to make a short trip with the Caloric Ship, down the bay and back, to-morrow (Iuesday) morning. Your presence on the occasion is particularly solicited by Captain Ericsson and Mr. Kitching. A small steam-boat will be at the Barge office dock, foot of Whitehall Street, precisely at 9 A M to convey you phond."

Street, precisely at 9 A.M. to convey you on board."

"The small steam-boat," puffing and blowing like an asthmatic old gentleman or broken-winded horse, getting up and letting off steam, finally, after a very manifest struggle and effort, brought us alongside the Ericsson, which was floating off the Battery in quiet beauty and calm dignity. There was none of the blowing and snorting and impetuous seething of the waves of those steam monsters, preparatory to an onset, but the caloric ship lay tranquilly along the bay with its great proportions, like a giant asleep. At the gangway each of the company was presented in turn to Captain Ericsson, who stood prepared to receive us.

Captain Ericsson is a man of fifty years of age, of a muscular, well developed, and strongly knit frame; he is of middle size, has a firm tread, a person which gives the assurance of reserved strength, and a head with all the proper intellectual developments, the high forehead and prominent brow marking the man of thought and the philosopher; he has a dark complexion, and hair somewhat whitened by time, black eyes, introspective and reflective rather than observing, a decisive mouth, and the mixed temperament combining the nervous and bilious, which distinguishes the powerful in action and the steady in endurance. His head rises in a phrenological summit of benevolence; he was heard to remark, the only sign he gave of self-gratulation on his triumph, that he was

proud to be the means, through his invention, of saving life.

Of the antecedents of the inventor of the Caloric Engine, I have learned this:

John Ericsson was born in Sweden, in 1803. He early showed a taste for mechanics, and at the age of eleven attracted the notice of Count Platen, who obtained for him a cadetship in an engineer corps. He afterwards entered the Swedish army, and was me anterwards entered the Swedish army, and was employed in the survey of northern Sweden. While occupied with his favourite study of mechanics, he projected his 'flame engine.' In 1826 he visited England. While there, in 1829, he competed for the prize offered by the Liverpool and Manchester railway for the best locomotive, and produced an engine that attained the wonderful speed, at that time, of fifty miles an hour. His propeller, his semi-cylindrical engine, his centrifugal blower, his distance instrument for measuring distances at sea, his hydrostatic gauge, his pyrometer, and other ingenious inventions, have already made the name of Ericsson famous in the scientific world. The Caloric Engine, which has now arrived at the consummation of success, was first brought before the scientific world of London twenty years ago, and was rejected by men of science as an impracticability, and as involving the absurdity of perpetual motion. Faraday, Brunel, and Ure, after a short resistance, finally conceded the practicability of the invention, and Faraday endorsed the caloric engine in those famous lectures of his, before the London Institution. Fox, whose name is identified with the success of the great London Exhibition, was a pupil of Ericsson. With this passing notice of the distinguished gentleman we have just been introduced to at the

With this passing notice of the distinguished gentleman we have just been introduced to at the gangway, let us mount above on the upper deck. Standing aft and looking forward, there is a clear view, a clean deck, and a pure atmosphere—no black, ugly, monstrous smoke-pipe, with its conconfused web of iron gear to obstruct the vision, no Tartarean fumes to choke the breath and pollute the air, no shower of cinders to blind the eyes, no steam bluster to deafen the ears and confuse the head. Midships, between the wheels, placed two on either side, are four short graceful hollow pillars, in pure white turned up with gold, like marble columns with gilded capitals.

We have hardly time to look abroad about the bay, in the enjoyment of one of those fine mornings like that of an October day, such as have been vouchsafed to us during this gentle winter; a hasty glance, however, reveals to us a bright blue sky overhead, a light misty vapour creeping along the smooth surface of the bay, and softening the distances of the Hudson and the seaward view, the red pipe of the Cunard steamer on the Jersey side, blushing at its overgrown awkwardness, the fussy high-pressure little tow-boats, easier heard than seen, the scattered sail on the bay, and the New York docks, choked with their greedy swallow of monstrous steamers, great merchantmen, and all kinds of busy craft large and small.

Captain Lowber, from his station on the starboard wheel-house, gives his command "go ahead." The giant Caloric awakes on the instant, and taking in one full breath of the pure atmosphere, which is heard like the distant sound of a rushing cataract, bends to his mighty work, and goes on with the quiet, order, and certainty of life, until bidden to his rest.

The absorbing interest was, of course, the machinery, and the curious were on the alert, and were in and about everywhere staring at the great cylinders, which expanded in their rotundity like enormous brewer's vats, and wondering at the small furnaces, which smouldered like domestic ovens, or the kitchen fire where a steak might be done to a turn, and expressing their surprise at the power, the great effect and simple cause. The single fireman and the single engineer on duty had nothing to do but to answer questions, which was certainly no sinecure, like that of attending upon the well disciplined giant engine, which Captain Ericsson said, "your nursery-maid or child might tend."

The visitors, after a well served breakfast which proved that the Ericsson, in the full confidence of

success, had revealed itself to the world, perfect from the cook's galley to the saloon, were all summoned into the handsome cabin, to listen to Captain Ericsson's exposition of his invention. The inventor, by the aid of a diagram, explained the principle and operation of the Caloric engine. His voice was clear and distinct; his English, though toned in a foreign accent, was idiomatic and direct; his manner modest yet confident. He felt as he said, "I have conquered every obstacle, there is no single practical difficulty left." It was inspired genius conscious of a revelation, and it was received as such by the deeply absorbed listeners. The eager press was there catching up every word. Expressions of wonder and admiration were frequent, and the applause hearty and spontaneous, Leaving to history to record and art to paint this interesting scene, I must attempt an explanation of the Caloric engine.

The great principle of this invention is the reiterated employment of the heat used to expand the air. The apparatus by which this is effected is called the regenerator, which is a series of wire nettings, placed close together, through which the warm and cold air are both made to pass, the former imparting its caloric to the metallic wire, and the latter receiving its heat from it. M. Beaumont, in a scientific description in the 'Courried des Etats-Unis' of Ericsson's invention, has thus happily illustrated the modus operandi of this apparatus:—"'We can form a clear idea of it by supposing that a man has his mouth filled with a heated metallic sponge; on inspiration, the outer air will, in passing through the sponge, become heated, and will reach the lungs warm, while the sponge, having imparted its heat, will become cold; on expiration of this warm air through the sponge, the air will heat the sponge, and the air itself will pass out into the atmosphere cold."

Ericsson's engine is composed of two cylinders, placed vertically, one above the another. The lower one is the large working cylinder; the one above, the smaller, supply cylinder, the office of which latter is to force the air into a reservoir placed above it, and which reservoir is connected with the working cylinder by means of a tube communicating with the regenerator; this tube has certain valves, by means of which this communication may be opened or closed. Under the bottom of the working cylinder is a furnace.

To start the engine, the fire being lighted, the first thing to do is to force the air into the reservoir by a pump or some means outside; then the communication with the working cylinder is opened: the air rushing into this cylinder forces up its and as this piston is connected by iron rods with the piston of the supply cylinder above, the air in the latter, by the ascent of its piston, is forced into the reservoir. When the piston has ascended to its height, the valves are so arranged as to shut off the reservoir of cold, and to allow the hot air in the working cylinder to pass off through the regenerator. This air becomes cool before passing into the atmosphere, having imparted its heat to the metallic meshes in the regenerator; the weight of the piston is sufficient to make it descend. The of the piston is sufficient to make it descend. valves being now as they were at the beginning, the piston ascends again; the air which now passes from the reservoir to the working cylinder heats itself as it passes through the regenerator, and the furnace has only to supply the small quantity of heat that may have been carried off with the air that has been allowed to escape, or has been lost by radiation.

The engine, once started, moves on, supplying itself with air from the atmosphere, which rushes through valves into the vacuum produced in the supply cylinder by the descent of its piston, and then is forced into the reservoir by the ascent of the piston.

Such is the mechanism by which Ericsson has applied heated air as a motive power. It has simplicity, like all great improvements, and seems in accordance with the law of progress to reveal to us a first truth. It is the air we breath by which it moves and has its being, and the poet's line—

"She walks the waters like a thing of life,"

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when applied to the breathing ship of Ericsson,

-when applied to the breatning ship of Ericsson, loss its poetry by becoming a fact.

The great commercial advantage of the new invention is its economy of heat, and thence the saving of fuel, freight room, labour, and expense. Atlantic steam navigation has proved a failure, in spite of the brilliant, the triumphant career of those perfected models of steamers, the Atlantic, Pacific, and Baltic, of which the national heart is so proud. Steam has never been able to overcome the great commercial obstacle under the cover of which that slowened, cracular Dionysius Lardner, still claims ill-omened, cracular Dionysius Lardner, still claims to have been a seer in his prophecy of the impracticability of ocean steam navigation. The ocean steamers do not pay, they cost more than they bring. The end is swallowed up in the means. the only record of their glory and of the shame of commerce, would have been the beggarly profit and loss account of a merchant's ledger. The Caloric ship is over 2000 tons, has an engine of 600 horse power, a speed of eight or nine knots, and con-sumes only six tons of coal in twenty-four hours, and will pay; thus heated air does what steam has never done, and Ericsson succeeds to the laurels of Watt and Fulton. The speed of the caloric of watt and Futton. The speed of the catoric ship is the only disappointment to the sanguine, but the inventor positively states, and is not contradicted, that the speed can be increased in proportion to the size of the cylinders. The cylinders of the present ship are fourteen feet in diameter, the largest ever made; it was, however, the desire of Ericsson to have had them two feet larger, but he yielded, and, as he states, with regret, to the supposed practical difficulty of constructing such. Hogg and Delamater now, at their own risk, undertake to construct cylinders of twenty feet in diameter, and future caloric ships will be the first in speed, as the Ericsson is now first in economy.

first in economy.

Ericsson is a modest man, and leaves to his work to speak the triumph of his genius, but he has a triumph of the heart, of which he boasts. "My greatest happiness," says he, "is, that my invention will be the means of saving life." There are none of the boilers to burst, the flues to collapse, and the complicated perplexity of the steam-engine to confuse, disorder, and bring danger and death. The waters of the Hudson and the Mississippi will case to be stained with bloom the traveller's farewall will no longer he uttered in fear and trembling. well will no longer be uttered in fear and trembling. Steam has been to man an excellent servant, but too often a cruel master; heated air will prove

more faithful, and always humane. In a comparison in the 'Evening Post' of the expense of the Ericsson and the Atlantic steamers, the economy of the former is strikingly exhibited in a saving of 25,000 dollars to the Ericsson in each trip. How much more striking does this economy appear on a comparison with the steamers on the Pacific, where fuel, labour, and freight-room are so costly; where coal costs thirty-five dollars a ton, and has cost fifty dollars; where firemen are paid forty dollars a month, and have been paid three hundred dollars; and where freight costs one hundred dollars a ton, and has been refused at any price. The thorough ventilation of the Ericsson, which programming weights from the principle of its which necessarily results from the principle of its moving power requiring constant supplies of fresh air, would save that enormous sacrifice of health and life in those worse than slave ships, the thronged, stifling steamers and sailing vessels that navigate the tropics and western coast of North and South America. A fireman is not necessarily a salamander, and I therefore was not surprised at the horrors I have so often witnessed, of the fire-room of a steamer in the tropics. The glowing heat of the fire-room than the fire-room of a steamer in the tropics. the furnaces, always busily kept to the height of its intensity, added to the hot breath of a tropical atmosphere, was beyond human endurance. Constant also was been always to be a supersistant and the supersistant and

stant relays of firemen succeeded each other, watch san reasys of fremen succeeded each other, watch relieved watch every half hour; those that went down were worn and languid from past work and the stifling tropical atmosphere, while those who came up were exhausted with the heat, and fell

fainting or in convulsions, and not seldom in death, on the hot deck. It would be well for humanity's sake that there were no vessels but Ericsson's to

navigate a tropical sea.

Is the steam-monarch to be deposed whose sway extends over the whole world—to whom sea and land and nature are subject—who has subdued the powers of the earth and under the earth, and who has given his name to the age?

Steam has been a useful servant to man; it has Steam has been a useful servant to man; it has ploughed the field, plied the shuttle, turned the mill, worked the printing-press, opened the mine, driven the car, and sailed the ship; but it has blood on its hands, it has done dark deeds, it has committed foul murders. Heated air is equally capable, and is saving and trustworthy—an obedient servant to man, and yet a monarch destined to succeed to the empire of steam over the whole world.

Ericsson, who is not a man of wealth, proudly said, "I have never wanted means to carry on my experiments." and while men of such generous

experiments;" and while men of such generous enterprise as Mr. Kitching, who is the chief capitalist of the invention, have money, no man of

capitanst of the invention, have money, no man of science will want means.

Ericsson is a Swede, and Mr. Kitching is an Englishman; but Americans have the honour of having them as fellow citizens, and the pride of knowing that the Caloric Engine was perfected in the atmosphere of American enterprise. R. T.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

It is with much satisfaction we have to announce that the leading scientific men are vigorously following up the movement in favour of the juxtaposition of the Learned Societies. They are unanimously agreed upon the necessity of impressing the new Government with the importance of pro-viding some convenient accommodation for this purpose with as little delay as possible, and have the following address in course of signature:—

the following address in course of signature:—

"We, the Undersigned, being members of the Royal Society, and of the Societies established for the promotion of Natural Knowledge, respectfully represent to Her Majesty's Government, that in our opinion the usefulness of such societies would be greatly increased by their being juxtaposed in some central and convenient locality. Among many reasons which might be adduced in favour of such juxtaposition, the following are suggested:—
"Economy of space and of expense, the same meeting-rooms being in many cases rendered available for different Societies, and the number of attendants being diminished; economy of time occupied by those who are in the habit of referring to different libraries; increased opportunities of mutual intercourse among those cultivating different branches of science; more rapid communication of scientific researches, and the avoidance of labour wasted in separate researches on the same subject.

"We are also anxious to impress upon Her Majesty's Government, as by no means the least important element in the proposal now submitted to consideration, that the science of this country suffers at present from the dispersed state of the Societies formed for its cultivation, and that by such a concentration as is here proposed its influence would be augmented, and its position rendered more appropriate."

As soon as 300 signatures have been attached.

As soon as 300 signatures have been attached, As soon as our signatures have been attached, which we need hardly say will be in a few days, it will be presented by the Earl of Rosse, as President of the Royal Society, to Her Majesty's Government. Of course this step is not being taken without some impression that accommodation may and will be senseled. At the book of Cooken we treet the be provided. At the back of Cockspur-street, to-wards Carlton-terrace, is a mass of unoccupied buildings belonging to the Crown, called Carlton Bilde, which might easily be converted for this use, and to it we invite the attention of the Government. A Commission of practical scientific men should be appointed with the view of getting should be appointed with the view of getting matters arranged with promptness and unanimity; and this, we suggest, should be formed by an official representative from each Society. Savans are a somewhat irritable race, and the details of organizing this long-desired scheme will not be carried without some occasional difficulties. Still, all are agreed upon the general terms of its urgency and importance, and we trust that the Councils of the different Societies will work together in a con-ciliatory and proper spirit, for the advancement of learning and the scientific honour of the country.

The election of Lord Derby to the Chancellorship of Oxford promises indirectly to be of important Church and nation could so easily dispense, are to

service to the cause of education. The new Government, in the plenitude of their anti-protectionism, are bent upon university reform; and we are gratified to hear from Lord John Russell's ministerial statement in the House of Commons, ministerial statement in the House of Commons, on Thursday, that the labours of the Oxford and Cambridge Commissioners, to which we have from time to time called urgent attention, will be early brought before the notice of parliament. A proposition, based upon these inquiries, is to be made for the benefit of the universities; but a scheme for the educational benefit of the poorer classes is, we rejoice to learn, to have the first consideration. That her Majesty's Government will be able so far to ameliorate the intellectual and physical condition of the lower classes, as to "implant in their minds motives sufficiently strong to induce them to avoid crime altogether." is more than we dare look for on this side the grave, but much more may be done towards the consummation of this demay be done towards the consummation of this delectable state of things than has yet been attempted. The intention of the Government to put an end to transportation to Van Diemen's Land, now at the time of the gold mania, when their services are so much in demand for the tillage of the soil, is a point of much more questionable utility. We have the testimony of Mrs. Meredith, in her de-lightful book, 'My Home in Tasmania,' that the majority of our convicts become reformed and trusty servants; and in a letter lately addressed to us, under date August 25th, by Mr. Gunn, of Launceston, we are told "Our gold in the adjoining colonies, which is found more abundantly than ever, has so unsettled all our labouring population, that no amount of wages will induce a man to do any ordinary work. By our convicts alone are we in Van Diemen's Land saved, but unfortunately they are now very few in number. They cannot leave the colony, and so this scanty supply we can retain.'

Mrs. Gore has written to us "to require the reviewer of 'The Dean's Daughter' to cite the passage in which she is supposed to say that the Dean could not appear in society because he had not been presented at court, to which the reviewer been presented at court, to which the reviewer alludes as eminently ridiculous. It would certainly," Mrs. Gore continues, "be so, if it existed in the work. But it is simply the coinage of the reviewer's imagination." The point about which Mrs. Gore makes her complaint was only incidentally and briefly introduced towards the close of the review, and though we find that we have made the review, and though we find that we have made the mistake of representing the fashionable disqualification as pertaining to the Dean, instead of to the Dean's daughter, the point itself is not altogether the coinage of the reviewer's imagination. Here is the passage to which allusion was made. It is in vol. i. p. 74, where Miss Mordaunt and her brother Willy are talking about an invitation to

""Even if you succeeded in satisfying papa's misgivings, Willy, said Miss Mordaunt, who was still examining the card of invitation, 'this ball would be out of the question. It was because grandmamma and aunt Milicent considered it impossible for me to appear in society without having been presented at court, that they did not permit me to accompany them to Bath."

No one imagines that Mrs. Gore herself would hint No one imagines that Mrs. Gore herself would hint such a disqualification, but the absurdity is the same in her representing such an opinion to be uttered by fashionable personages like the Dowager Countess and Lady Milicent. Since Mrs. Gore is so sensitive on so trifling a point of criticism, we hope she has well considered the weightier objection was have made to some past of hor soul. cism, we nope see has well considered the weighter objections we have made to some parts of her novel. With regard to her picture of a Dean as a personification of pompous stolidity, we stated that this was the conventional idea of writers of fiction, but with how little truth or fairness this can be taken as belonging to real life in our own day, the fol-lowing passage from the last number of the 'Edin-burgh Review' will serve to illustrate. Referring to the debate in Parliament on Lord Blandford's Church Reform Bill, the reviewer says, "No one would have supposed, on reading that debate, that amongst the twenty-nine clergymen thus quietly

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be found the first Greek scholar in Britain, if not in Europe; the only two really able ecclesiastical historians in our Church (one of the two also a poet of no slight merit as well as an historian); the greatest mathematician of Cambridge; two of the most eminent geologists of this or any other country; while there are at least a dozen of others in the number, who, by their writings or their preaching, their efforts in the cause of education among rich and poor, or their laborious care of parishes in their earlier years, have won their way deservedly to the leisure and dignity to which the davour of their Sovereign has promoted them. We doubt much, whether any other twenty-nine appointments in the Church of England, taken at random, will be found to be so well filled as the twenty-nine deaneries."

From a paper lately read at the Geographical Society, it might be inferred that the journey the continent of Africa had never attempted, or at least never succeeded before. Such an opinion, however, would be erroneous: for according to the communication of the Portuguese governor at Mozambique, in 1812, Don Antonio Manoel de Nello Castro e Mendoça, to the officers of his Majesty's ship Nisus, then at that port, the feat had been previously accomplished by two mulattoes, three or four years before. Mr. Prior, Inspector of Hospitals in the Royal Navy, and since known as the author of some biographical and poetical works, printed in 1819, an abstract of the voyages of the Nisus, in Phillip's 'Journal of Voyages and Travels,' where the statement of the governor is thus given :- "An interesting fact was related to Captain Beaver by Don Antonio, which adds another item to the scanty list of those already known, respecting the interior of this great continent. Hitherto it has interior of this great continent. Hitherto it has been supposed that no overland communication existed between the eastern and western shores. The occurrence, though certainly rare, has however actually taken place; for two Portuguese subjects, mulattoes, natives of Angola, set off from that place on a mercantile excursion to the interior, and being led further than originally intended, determined to penetrate to the Portuguese settle-ment of Sena, on the Zambesi, toward the eastern shore, where they arrived after an interval of five years. This long detention arose from the curiosity and caprice, or wars, of the intervening tribes. They are represented, however, as not unfriendly in general to travellers; the route not peculiarly difficult, and the probable length of time necessary for the journey, if not detained, about two hundred The latter statement is perhaps doubtful; for as the distance is about fifteen hundred miles in a direct line, and most likely many hundreds more by the common track, travellers must proceed without halting at a considerable rate daily, during the whole period, which is an improbable circumstance in any part of Africa. These men set out soon afterwards on their return by the same route, without coming to Mozambique, and by subsequent accounts from the western coast, it appears arrived in safety." As the late explorers from Zanzibar estimate the period to be occupied in the journey at about six months, it would therefore seem that this, and the previous calculation given by Mr.
Prior, do not differ very widely.

By the recent death of the Earl of Oxford and

Mortimer that peerage is extinct. It is odd enough, when a man dies, to fall a-writing about his grandfather; but on the present occasion it is difficult, when we read of the decease of the Earl of Oxford, not to go back to the 'Four Last Years of Queen when real Whigs and real Tories struggled to keep out or to restore a banished dynasty, when Faction paid her court to Genius, and when the names that were familiar in the mouths of men were Swift and Addison, Oxford and Bolingbroke, Argyle and Marlborough. When the Whigs of 1709, by their ill-advised prosecution of Sacheverell, turned a great portion of the nation against them, Robert Harley and the Tories contrived to banish the haughty Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, from the court, and at last to drive the Duke from the army. The struggle between the parties was

keen and virulent; and Harley, although timid and dilatory, made his party triumphant. The Queen declared her intention of making him an earl, to the great astonishment of his dancingmaster, who expressed his wonder what her Maiesty could see in him, for he had never been able to Queen, in 1714, Whiggism regained all its power and glory, and, as Arbuthnot said of their opponents, fuinry Tories. Bolingbroke, conscious of guilt, saved his neck by flying to France. Oxford magnanimously remained to face his enemies, and was committed to the Tower. We are almost inclined to say that the best history and panegyric of Lord Oxford is to be found in the noble dedication to him by Pope of the poems of Parnell, whom, by the advice of Swift, he honoured above peers and generals at his levee, going up to him, with his treasurer's staff in his hand, among the wondering crowd of fawning courtiers. In that noble poem of Pope, written in 1721, when Walpole and the Whigs reigned supreme, and Lord Oxford, though acquitted of treason, lay under the frown of power, and could not reward flattery with place or pension, Pope calls him-

"A soul supreme, in each hard fortune tried, Above all pain, all passion, and all pride."

The word pain refers to an incident which happened to Oxford, when a Frenchman named Guiscard was under examination before the Privy Council, Guiscard snatched up a penknife from the table, and struck at Harley, breaking the blade against one of his ribs. The conduct of Harley on that occasion was described at the time as very noble. Pope ends his epistle by saying,-

Through fortune's cloud, one truly great can see, Nor fears to tell that Mortimer is he."

And the title of Oxford and Mortimer is extinct; and so the glory of this world passeth away. It should not be forgotten that the Harleian Library, so famous in British bibliography, was collected by the taste and munificence of the two first Earls of

Having taken a prominent part lately in the reform of press-privileges, we may refer to another abuse which we are happy to say is not of very frequent occurrence—the invitations of editors to quent occurrence—the invitations of editors to feasts. On the first private exhibition of anything wanting publicity, it is sometimes customary to pro-pitiate the press by handing round to the assem-bled critics champagne and biscuits. We all know how much the sympathies are excited by the generous cup that is denied to the Bands of Hope; and as the editor is not unfrequently invited to bring an unlimited number of friends to these they are looked forward to by Messrs. Æacus, Minos, and Rhadamanthus with no little complacent interest. The following invitation has been sent to us during the past week :-

Deen sent to us during the past week:—

Patent Flour Mill at Messrs. Pavitt, 247, Wapping.—
The scientific Examination of this most important Invention will take place on Wednesday, the 9th day of February,
at two o'clock, at which the Editor and Friend or Friends
are respectfully invited to be present. Cold Collation
at three o'clock at No. 282, High-street, Wapping.

SHEARMAN and SLATER, Solicitors,
Great Tower-street.

The value of this mill, according to the statement of the proprietors, consists in being able to produce a healthier flour out of the same wheat than any a heatther nour out of the same wheat than any other mill. This appears to be a very acceptable property, and we doubt not that its sanitary powers will be fully developed by the intelligent metropolitan press, under the stimulating effects of the Cold Collation.

Last week, at Shewalton, Ayrshire, died in his 81st year, the Right Hon. David Boyle, Lord Justice-General, and Lord President of the Court of Session of Scotland. He resigned the presidency in May last year, after having been a judge for forty-one years. He was born in 1772, called to the bar in 1793, appointed solicitor-general for Scotland 1807, and elected member of parliament for Ayrshire. In 1811 he was raised to the bench, and in 1841 promoted to the office of Lord Justice General. The deceased judge was a man of refined taste, and the friend and associate of many of the distinguished leaders of the literary society of the

northern capital during the present century. of his latest public appearances was at the Edinburgh meeting of the British Association in 1850, when he made an elegant and judicious address at

the general meeting.

Our geological friends will be glad to learn that
Professor Edward Forbes is likely to succeed Sir Charles Lyell, who retires by rotation, as President of the Geological Society. The Anniversary Meet-ing of the Society will be held on Friday, and a cordial muster of scientific friends is expected to support the new President at dinner in the evening at the 'Freemasons'. While on this subject, we at the 'Freemasons'. While on this subject, we may notice that Mr. J. Beete Jukes, of the Irish Survey, was on Wednesday elected President of the Geological Society of Dublin.

The funds which we announced some time since as having been raised for the purpose of a compli-mentary acknowledgment of Dr. Grant's valuable services in the cause of science, chiefly comparative anatomy and physiology, have been devoted to the purchase of a compound achromatic microscope and a small annuity. They were presented to him on the 29th ultimo, in the Professors' Room of University College, by Dr. Marshall Hall, as Chairman of the Committee, and responded to by the worthy recipient with graceful emotion.

Some French savans have resolved to assemble in Paris, in the course of next month, a congress of philologists from the different countries of Europe, to discuss questions relative to different languages. and to prepare the way for establishing, if possible, a universal alphabet, as the first step towards the creation of a universal language. The presence of

foreign linguists is requested.

Colonel Von Oesfeld, chief of the Trigonometric Bureau at Berlin, who died recently, has left a manuscript work, unique in its kind—a complete catalogue of all the geographical maps and plans published in Europe from the earliest times up to the 19th century. The manuscript, which is in

The Rev. Dr. Craig, of Leamington, the proprietor of the gigantic telescope at Wandsworth, is to lecture on 'Astral Wonders,' in the Free masons' Hall, on Monday evening at eight. The lecture is in connexion with the Church of England Young Men's Association. The Rev. Dr. Cahill, of newspaper notoriety, is also giving at present astronomical lectures in London.

The New York Mercantile Literary Association, under whose auspices Mr. Thackeray first lectured in America, has purchased the Astor Place Opera House. The interior of the building, according to The New York Literary World,' is being re-House. modelled to suit its new purpose, for which it is

admirably qualified by its position.

German papers state that Professor Schönbein, of Basle, and Professor Bottger, of Frankfort, have made over their process of preparation of gun-cotton to the Austrian Government, for 30,000 florins, two-thirds of which fall to M. Schönbein,

as the inventor.

Dr. Marshall Hall, F.R.S., who has been practising as a physician for the last forty years with so much useful and philosophic zeal, has just retired from the profession with a well-earned for the profession with the profession with the profession with a well-earned for the profession with t tune, and leaves England this day for a tour of fifteen months in the United States.

The Ipswich Museum, which we lately urged upon the town council should be made a municipal institution, and supported by the assessment of a halfpenny rate, has been voted to this use, much to the credit of the burgesses, by a majority of 707

An American publishing house, Redfield, of New York, has issued two volumes of 'Macaulay's Speeches in Parliament,' collected from Hansard. They embrace the whole of his speeches from 1830 to his last appearance in the House, arranged in the proposed in the speeches from 1830 to his last appearance.

chronological order.

Several 'Memoirs of Daniel Webster' are announced, one of them by George Ticknor, author of 'The History of Spanish Literature,' which is to be published expressly for the Massachusetts Historical Society.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Feb. 10th.—Lord Wrottesley, Vice-President, in the chair. 'On the Periodic and Nonsident, in the chair. 'On the Periodic and Non-periodic Variations of Temperature at Toronto in Canada, from 1841 to 1852 inclusive." By Colonel Edward Sabine, R.A., Treasurer and Vice-President. The principal object of this com-munication is to make known the non-periodic variations of the temperature for every day in the twelve years from 1841 to 1852 inclusive, at Toronto, in Canada. The non-periodic variations are those differences of the temperature from its mean or normal state which remain after all the are those differences of the temperature from its mean or normal state which remain after all the known periodical variations are allowed for, and are such as are generally accompanied by peculiarities of wind or of other meteorological circumstances. Recent investigations have led to the inference, that opposite conditions of weather prevail simultaneously in the same parallels of latitude under different meridians, and that in particular Europe and America usually present such an opposition, so that a severe winter here corresponds to a mild one there, and rice versa; and recent theories of the distribution of heat on the surface of the globe profess to furnish the explanation. To place globe profess to furnish the explanation. To place the facts on indisputable ground, it is requisite that a comparison should be made of unexceptionable records of the non-periodic variations in Europe and America, continued for a sufficient time to afford a proper basis for inductive generalisation. Toronto, from its latitude 43° 40′ N., and inland situation, is well suited to supply such a comparison with stations in the middle parts of Europe, where similar records have been kept; and the twelve years embraced by the observations, viz. 1841 to 1852, have been years of unusual meteorological activity in Europe. Details are given in logical activity in Europe. Details are given in the commencement of the paper, showing the care bestowed on the examination of the thermometer employed with a standard divided a l'échelle arbi-traire, by the method of M. Regnault, as well as the precautions adopted for its fair exposure, and for its protection from rain and radiation. The observations were made by the non-commissioned officers of the detachment of the Royal Artillery employed in the duties of the Observatory. The period of twelve years comprises two series, in one of which the thermometer was observed hourly, and in the other less frequently, each observation of the second series receiving, however, a correction to the mean temperature of the day furnished for every hour and for every day of the year by the first series. The two series, each of six years, are separately discussed; from the first series equations are derived for the mean annual temperature by are derived for the mean annual temperature by the method suggested by Bessel ('Astron. Nach.' No. 136), whereby the most probable values of the temperature on every day and every hour are computed from the whole body of the observations. These the author regards as Normal Values, and by comparing with them the actual daily temperatures,—which in the first six years are the means on each day of twenty-four equi-distant observations, and in the second six years the means of all the observations. tay or twenty-rour equi-distant observations, and in the second six years the means of all the observations made on each day, each observation having been corrected for the hour in the manner described,—the non-periodic variations for every day in the twelve years are obtained, and are given in Table. a Table. From the normal temperatures the author has represented in a plate the phenomena of the temperature at Toronto, according to a method which, if applied to the different meteorological elements and in different localities, might, he thinks, materially facilitate their inter-comparison. This method, in which three variables are represented one being dependent on the other two, is essentially the same that has been long used in magnetic maps, and in the ordinary isothermal maps; from which latter, however, it differs in this respect, that whereas in the ordinary isothermal maps the two variables on which the variation of temperature two variables on which the variation of temperature is dependent are the geographical latitude and longitude, in the present case the two variables are the hour of the day and the day of the year. The variation of temperature is here referred therefore to time and not to space,—a distinction which

the author proposes to convey by employing the term 'chrono-isothermals,' as applicable to lines of this description. From the delineation in the Plate, and from the Tables contained in the paper, many characteristic, and some peculiar features of the climate and meteorology of the part of the North American continent in which Toronto is situated are readily perceivable. Several instances are pointed out; amongst these may be noticed the peculiar anomaly of the North American winter, which is very conspicuous in the plate; and the absolute as well as relative variability of the temperature at different times of the year, exhibited by means of a numerical index analogous to the probable error of the arithmetical mean of a number of partial results, and deduced in a similar manner from the differences of individual years, months, and days, from their mean or normal values; whence it appears, in respect to the annual temperature will fall within the limits of 43°-8 and 44°-6, as that it will exceed those limits on either side. Finally, the author has shown the 'Thermic Anomaly,' (as it has been recently termed,) of the annual and monthly temperatures at Toronto, by comparison with the normal temperatures computed by Dove ('Verbreitung der Wärme,' 1852), for the parallel of 43°-40'N. from thirty-six equi-distant points on the parallel; from which comparison it appears, that after allowance has been made for the elevation above the sea (342 feet), every month of the year at Toronto is colder than the normal temperature of the same month in the same parallel; that the thermic anomaly reaches its extreme in February, when it exceeds 10° of Fahr.; and that on the average of the whole year it is little less than 6°.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE. -Feb. 4th. -Edward Hawkins, Esq., F.R.S., Treasurer, in the chair. A fresh notice of discoveries of Roman remains near Audley End was given by the Hon. Richard Neville. These, which have been brought to light in the course of his excavations on the estates of Lord Braybrooke, appeared to present the vestiges of a kiln for the fabrication of pottery—a new example of the general introduction of Roman arts and manufactures into this country. The forms of many vases found in Britain exhibit great elegance of design, and are remarkable from their close resemblance to such as have been discovered at Rome, and those parts of the empire formerly most distinguished for their civilisation and advancement in the arts. Many evidences have occurred to show that the conquerors not only brought the Britain, but that they actually established extensive manufactures, metallurgical works, and brought to these islands artists skilled in various decorative processes. Mr. Franks produced, on the present occasion, a collection of vases lately found in Hampshire, near the New Forest, on the site of a Roman pottery of considerable extent, in a district which had hitherto produced few vestiges of Roman occupation. A communication was read from the President of the Institute, Lord Talbot de Malahide, reporting his successful progress in the arrangements connected with the Great Industrial Exhibition in Dublin, with the object of combining with that display of modern art and ingenuity an extensive assemblage of examples illustrative of the progress of manufactures and arts, from the earliest progress of manufactures and arts, from the earlest period. The enlarged scale of the proposed Exhibition had rendered an extension of the buildings requisite; and Mr. Dargan had liberally consented to appropriate to the Fine Arts department a new wing, which would afford space for a highly interesting display. Here it is proposed to exhibit the earlier antiquities of Ireland, hitherto little known that the form a proposed to the complete of to the English antiquary, and to form as complete a series as possible by the combination of the entire Museum of the Royal Irish Academy with the col-lections exhibited at the meeting of the British Association at Belfast, and numerous rare objects which have been readily supplied from private collections. In thus forming an instructive illus-

tration of the varied and singular forms, and the skilful processes of ancient manufacture, shown in the earlier antiquities of Ireland, Lord Talbot has determined likewise to present an assemblage of analogous examples, as far as practicable, from Eng-land and Scotland, so as to afford for the first time land and Scotland, so as to afford for the first time the opportunity of an extensive comparison of these remains. Such a collection must tend to throw great light upon questions which have perplexed the archæologist; and the value of an exhibition, such as has been contemplated by the noble President of the Institute, is obvious, not only as regards archæological science, but in its bearing upon matters of practical utility, and as auxiliary to ethnographical and historical inquiries. Lord Talbot stated that he had received gratifying green. Talbot stated that he had received gratifying encouragement in the ready contribution of many valuable objects of ancient art and antiquities, from members of the Institute, and others who had cordially entered into his views. He had undertaken the direction of this interesting project at the request of the Committee of the Great Industrial Exhibition, of which it promises to become, under his auspices, a very important feature. It is also proposed to devote a portion of the additional struc-ture to a 'Mediæval Court,' for the display of productions by Mr. Hardman and other talented artists and artificers, whose tasteful imitations of mediaval decoration have so greatly advanced towards perfection since the exhibition of such attractive character in the Crystal Palace. An extensive collection of casts and models will also be formed, exhibiting many works of sculpture, architectural monuments, some of the earlier antiquities of Ireland, and ancient monuments, such as the Reland, and ancient monuments, such as the Round Towers, the elaborately sculptured crosses, with other objects, essential to the formation of a series such as has been proposed by Lord Talbot, and of which the originals could not be removed for exhibition. With these examples, more especially interesting to the expectation, will also be a series of the series of cially interesting to the archaeologist, will also be arranged a division appropriated to the works of art of the higher class, comprising choice examples of the Italian, German, and other schools, with specimens of engraving, and the productions of all artistic processes, such as enamels, sculptures in ivory or wood, goldsmiths' work, &c. Various choice examples preserved in the three kingdoms have been already preserved in the three kingdoms have been already placed at Lord Talbot's disposal; and with these will be shown some of the best works of modern artists, rendering the series as complete and instructive as possible. This practical demonstration of the progress of industrial skill, and of art in all its barrals are at the first terms. its branches, may be regarded as the first attempt to illustrate, on an extended scale, the advance of to illustrate, on an extended scale, the advance of national civilization from the rudest age. Mr. Edward Hussey, of Oxford, read a memoir on the cure of certain diseases by the Royal Touch, detailing many curious particulars regarding the ceremonies observed, the popular belief in the virtue attributed to the sovereign of England to as recent a period as the last century, and the notions which had prevailed in reference to the origin of this singular practice. It had been supposed to have commenced in the times of Edward the Confessor and is first alluded to be William of the Confessor, and is first alluded to by William of Malmesbury, who wrote about eighty years after his reign; some French writers, however, have sought to trace the gift of healing virtue to Clovis, as conferred upon the first Christian sovereign of France, with the holy chrism, and preserved by his successors, asserting that the kings of England exercised it only by some collateral right. It appears to have been a construct heater when the exercised it only by some collateral right. It appears to have been a custom to bestow upon the sick person a piece of gold or silver, as a substantial token of the exercise of this healing power. This gift was, in the time of Edward I, a small sum of money, probably as alms, but in later times, a gold coin was given, and perforated for suspension to the neck. Henry VII. gave the angel noble, the smallest gold coin in circulation; and the angel was the piece distributed at the ceremony of the Royal Touch during the suspecsing resigns. the Royal Touch during the succeeding reigns. Charles I. had not always gold to bestow, and he sometimes substituted silver, or even brass. After the Restoration the applicants for the healing were so numerous, that small medals were struck for the

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special purpose of such distribution. Mr. Hussey produced several of these touch-pieces, of various The Pretender, as James III., had two, both of silver; as had also the Cardinal of York, as Henry IX. The last sovereign of England who exercised the power was Queen Anne; and amongst the latest occasions was that when Dr. Johnson. his early childhood, was brought from Lichfield to be touched with 200 others. A singular anecdote is recorded of George I., who, soon after his acces sion, was applied to by a gentleman in behalf of his son. The king referred him to the Pretender, as possessing the hereditary gift of the Stuarts. The result was this, that the son was touched and recovered, and the father became a devoted partisan of the exiled family. The numbers who craved the benefit of this supposed virtue were extraordinary; Queen Elizabeth, it is stated, healed three or four hundred persons yearly. Charles II. is recorded to have touched not less than 90,798 applicants, according to the registers which were constantly kept. James II. on one occasion healed 350 per-sons. Mr. Hussey stated some remarkable facts regarding the universal belief in this healing power, not merely by the poor or ignorant, but by the highest in the state, by physicians, scholars, and divines, as recently even as the last century. The gift was claimed by the kings of France as well as our own sovereigns, and the ceremonial, long ob-served, appears to have been established by St. Louis. A great number of persons were healed by Henri Quatre, and the inherent virtue was un-diminished in Louis XIV. and Louis XV. The ceremony of the touch was even prescribed in the authorised ceremonial for the coronation of Charles X. Mr. Hawkins, in returning thanks to Mr. Hussey for this curious dissertation, observed that the identical touch-piece which had been hung round the neck of Dr. Johnson by Queen Anne, was, as he had reason to believe, now in the British Museum. It was formerly in the Duke of Devonshire's cabinet of medals. Mr. Godwin, of Bristol, gave an account of some mural paintings and sculptured ornaments of the Norman period, existing in the church of Diteridge, Wilts, and he exhibited an ivory carving, portion of a table-book, or set of waxed tablets of the fourteenth century. Mr. Le Keux gave some useful suggestions regarding the preservation and best mode of cleaning ancient s and armour, as shown by several head-pieces and other objects which he exhibited. One of these helmets had been thrown out during the repairs of Hayes Church, in Kent, and another had formerly been in the church of West Drayton. Amongst other antiquities produced, were an Italian fencer's target, a cap of mail, and an iron arm of most ingenious construction, destined to enable some dauntless warrior, who had lost a hand, still to wield his weapon. Walter Scott de-scribes such a false arm, as preserved by some an-cient Scottish family. These objects were contricient Scottish family. These objects were contri-buted by the Hon. Robert Curzon, from the ar-mory at Parham Park. The Lady North sent a beautiful embroidered lure, gloves, and hawking-pouch, the latter mounted with silver-gilt, richly enamelled with flowers and fruits. These, the most perfect set probably of hawking appliances still preserved, are of the reign of Elizabeth. Mr. W. Bernhard Smith exhibited some ancient arms. Mr. Trollope sent a bronze lamp with four burners, found a few days previously at Lincoln. Mr. Des-borough Bedford brought some relies found in the crypt of Gerard's Hall, and the pardon of Samuel Desborough, one of Cromwell's Scotch commissioners, with the great seal appended. Mr. Westwood produced a fac-simile of the stone bearing a Runic inscription, found not long since at St. Paul's. Mr. Franks stated that application had been made in vain to obtain this remarkable relic for the British Museum; the present possessor had resolved to have it fixed up in his warehouse, an object of attraction, probably, to customers.

ANTIQUARIES.—Feb. 3rd.—J. P. Collier, Esq., V.P., in the chair. The Vice-President presented to the Society a facsimile of a rare tract, entitled, A Libell of Spanish Lies, found at the Sack of

Cales,' 8vo, Lond, 1596. The certificates of several new candidates for election were read. Mr. Ellison exhibited, by the hands of the Treasurer, a vase or money-box in terra cotta, found, about a year since, during excavations in the High-street This vase resembles very closely the modern earthenware money-jars, except that the slit is perpendicular instead of longitudinal. There were found in it about twenty coins in small brass, of the Emperor Constantine, his empress, Fausta, and his sons, Crispus, Constantine, and Constantius. Sir Henry Ellis, by permission of Cardinal Wise-man, exhibited an illuminated manuscript, containing the form of blessing cramp-rings, and touching for the evil. It had belonged to our English Queen Mary, and was ornamented with English Queen Mary, and was ornamented with several miniatures, one of which represented the queen in the act of blessing the rings; the other exhibits her touching for the evil a boy on his knees before her, introduced by the clerk of the closet: his right shoulder is bared, and the queen appears to be rubbing it with her hand. Her Ma-jesty appears in a kind of hooded dress, similar to that in which she is represented in the original half-length portrait by Holbein, in the Society's meeting room. The title page of this volume has the arms of Philip of Spain, around which are the badges of York and Lancaster, and the whole is enclosed within a frame of fruit and flowers, executed in a very masterly manner. Touching for the evil appears to have fallen into disuse after the expulsion of the Stuarts, although editions of the 'Book of Common Prayer' contain "the office of after the accession of the House of Hanover, but it does not appear, by the newspapers of those days, that the ceremony was ever performed. Mr. John Evans, recently elected Fellow, communicated a detailed account of the excavations of a Roman villa at Boxmoor, on the line of the London and North Western Railway, and of another at a short distance from the station. Only a portion of the villa at the Boxmoor station was explored, owing to the remainder being buried beneath the road forming the approach to the station, and this led to no important discovery; but it was otherwise with the second site. Here the remains of a villa were dug out of the garden of Boxmoor House, the residence of Thomas Davis, Esq., who with a very laudable spirit defrayed the expenses of the excavations. The result was the discovery of the remains of a very fine tessellated pavement, a drawing of which was exhibited. The tessellæ of which it is composed have been submitted to examination, and are found to be composed as follows-the white of limestone, the blue or grey of grey limestone, the black of calcareous shale, and the red and orange of terra cotta. In the specimen of a pavement found on the site of the Royal Exchange, preserved in the Museum of Practical Geology, the tessellæ have been found to Practical Geology, the ressence have been found to be composed of precisely the same materials. They must have been brought from some distance to Boxmoor, as none of the stones of which they are composed occur in that part of the county. The pavement at Boxmoor was not set in the centre of the apartment, but surrounded on three sides by a common red border of one-inch tessellæ, the size of the room being about twenty-three feet by eighteen feet. The walls were painted in pannels, and the colours were as brilliant as when first applied. A list of coins found on the spot, including several of the Consular series, and extending from Domitian to the fourth century, accompanied this notice.

LINNEAN. — Feb. 1st. — Robert Brown, Esq., President, in the chair. Daniel Oliver, jun., Esq., and William Thomson, Esq., were elected Fellows. The Secretary announced numerous donations to the library, including the Transactions of the Academies of Breslau, Berlin, Lyons, and Madrid, presented by the respective Academies, two parts of Dr. Hooker's 'Flora of New Zealand,' and the monograph of the genus Voluta, from the 'Conchologia Iconica,' presented by Mr. Lovell Reeve. Read, a memoir 'On Venation, as a generic character in the Ferns; with observations on the genus Hewardia, J. Smith; and Cionidium,

Moore, by Thomas Moore, Esq., F.L.S., Curator of the Botanic Garden, Chelsea. The object of this paper was to inquire into the general importance of modifications of the vascular structure in distinguishing the genera of ferns; and also into their relative value in the case of some species which had been referred to the genera Adiantum and Deparia. It was mentioned that the diversities which occur in the vascular structure of ferns had not been overlooked, such botanists as Langsdorf and Fischer, Brongniart, Bory, Gandichaud, Kaulfuss, Fee, Blume, and especially Mr. Brown, having given prominence to characters derived from the wenation. Mr. Brown particularly had proposed several sub-genera of Polypodium, distinguished from each other, and from a much larger group in which the veins were free, by the manner in which their veins conjoined; so that the importance of reticulated venation, as a sub-generic character at least, had the sanction of Mr. Brown, and it was argued that it became a mere question of words whether, in plants like the ferns, which afforded so little variety in their fructification, the same characters might not be conveniently and properly employed for generic definition. Looking at the question of venation as it is illustrated in the great and universally adopted natural divisions of flowering plants, it was observed that its generic importance in the ferns would appear to rest on better grounds than convenience alone. There it was found that parallel free veins, or netted veins, were so constant and unvarying in their occurrence, that the primary groups of vegetation might, with barely any exceptions, be distinguished by these marks alone; and the existence of the smaller intervening groups proposed by Dr. Lindley, in which these two systems of venation are associated with other two systems of venation are associated with ouner characters, though equally constant, became in this view a significant fact. In the case of flowering plants it was remarked, the complete floral organs which are present afford the diversity which is necessary for the purpose of generic definition; but as an equivalent for these, we have in the ferns merely certain naked or covered aggregations of spore-cases, the spore-cases themselves, in the great bulk of the species, scarcely affording any differential characters, or such only as are microscopic, and therefore generally unavailable. Peculiarities of venation, too, being for the most part accompanied by peculiarities of habit, it appeared quite justifiable to employ other characters than those derived from the fructification, in distinguishing generically such groups as the ferns, in which the fructification affords comparatively so little variety. And what additional available feature, it was inquired, is there so constant and unvarying, and affording such diversity, as the peculiarities of the vascular structure? Experience, moreover, attested this character of venation, as one to be relied on with perfect confidence, because whatever modification of vascular structure is met with in a particular species, that and no other is found in that species, the exceptions to this rule being perfectly insignificant. It was therefore concluded that, without lowering the importance of the fructification of ferns, as affording distinguishing characteristics of generic groups, the modifications of venation might conveniently and properly be admitted to share the same office. According to this view, whilst species presenting constant organic differences in their fructification should not be placed in the same genus, so neither should species presenting constant organic differences in the development of their vascular struc-The question whether or not a reticulated venation is, in itself, a sufficient generic distinction, was answered in the affirmative, in support of which it was urged, that a genus being an arbitrary group, all that was really required in a generic character was, a constant difference from estab-lished genera in the structure or development of some important organ. The author argued that the vascular system was of the highest importance in the vegetable economy, since it was not at all unfrequent—and more common among the ferns than most other plants—to find extraordinary means of propagation, in the form of adventitious

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buds developed in connexion with it. In ferns buds developed in connexion with it. In terns particularly, it was mentioned that those points of the veins to which normally, as receptacles, the sori were attached, in certain species frequently became viviparous, developing buds from which young plants were at length produced. These considerations led the author to an opposite view to that taken by Sir W. Hooker, whose opinion was referred to with much deference; and he had seem to the conclusion on these grounds, that the come to the conclusion on these grounds, that the genus Hewardia of J. Smith, which had been reunited with Adiantum, ought to be kept distinct. This conclusion had been unexpectedly confirmed in Fee's 'Genera Filicum' (1852), just received in this country. In that work, the author had found nearly the same view taken of the species as that which he had himself adopted, and an additional one mentioned (H. serrata), a native of Bahia, with which he had been previously unacquainted. The genus *Hewardia* is to be distinguished by having its linear (oblong or continuous) sori situated as in Adiantum, combined with its reticulated venation. The species referred to it were the following:-

*Sori enterrupted - Veins uniform.

1. H. Adiantoides, J. Smith = Ad. Hewardia, Kunze.
2. H. dolosun, Kenze.

**Sori interrupted - Veins uniform.

3. H. Le Prieurii, Fee. = Ad. Le Prieurii, Hooker.

4. H. serrata, Fee.

H. Wilsoni, Fee, (Adiantum, Hooker,) is a false

Hewardia, and a true Adiantum, as is also Sir W. Hooker's variety of Ad. lucidum. In both these the dichotomous veins occasionally anastomose, but there is nothing like complete reticulation, and the union, when it does occur, is evidently accidental. The second genus Hewardia, a very distinct form of Melanthaceae, which, according to this view, must be set aside, it was proposed to call Isophysis, (from isos equal, and physis the sexes, in reference to the unusual circumstance in this order of the stamens equalling the stigmata;) the species to retain the name *H. Tasmanica*, Hooker, in Ic. Pl., v. t. 858. The same reasons which, if correct, lead to the re-establishment of Hewardia, it was pointed out, must also separate as a new genus, a fern with reticulated veins, from New Caledonia. which had been recently referred to Deparia-a genus in which the normal species have free veins. This it was proposed to call Cionidium, a name which the author had used in reference to it, with-

which it was now proposed to define thus:—Veins, reticulate; sori, semi-globose, extra-marginal, seated on pedicles formed of the excurrent apices of the

on pencies formed of the excurrent apices of the veiolets; spore-cases pedicellate; fronds bipinnate; sori excurrent from both margins of the pinnatifid pinules. The only known species is C. Moorii — Deparia Moorii, Hooker. Read also, the commencement of a paper, 'On the Islands and Flora of Hongkong,' by Dr. H. F. Hance, communicated by Berthold Seemann, Esq., F.L.S. Civil Engineers .- Feb. 8th .- James Simpson, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair. The evening was entirely devoted to the discussion of Mr.
Joshua Richardson's paper 'On the Pneumatics of
Mines.' The discussion was commenced by alluding to the very different condition of the ventilation in the mines and collieries of the various districts of Great Britain, some having humane proprie-tors, educated engineers, and intelligent overlookers, by whom all scientific and practical knowledge was brought to bear on the question; whilst others were worked by men who cared little for anything beyond mere gain, and went on without other supervision than that of the most ignorant overmen, by whom matters were allowed to fall into a bad state, the whole being entirely dependent on "natural ventilation," by which was meant merely sinking two pits, one of which was intended for the down-cast, and the other for the up-cast, the motion of the air being determined only by the difference of temperature of the two shafts. If these two states were compared, it would be admitted that some degree, either of Government or other inspection, was necessary. The quantities of atmospheric air necessary for the healthful con-The quantities dition of mines, under various circumstances, were

then given, as being, in round numbers, 100 cubic feet per man per minute, for mines free from deteet per man per minute, for mines free from de-leterious gases, up to as much as 500, or even 600 cubic feet in very fiery and bad mines. The various means of forcing air into, and exhausting air from mines were then explained, more particularly touching on the 'Water-Blast' used in the Hartz touching on the 'Water-Blast' used in the Hartz mountains and in Belgium, by which it appeared long galleries were very rapidly cleared, even of powder smoke. Gurney's steam jet and Struve's aerometer, Combe's curved arm fan, the pneumatic screw, and the ordinary exhausting or rarefying furnace, were compared: and it was contended, that though the furnace was the simplest system, there were occasions when, from its action not being susceptible of acceleration, it would be ineffective in rapidly clearing a mine after an explosion; whereas, by increasing the velocity of Struve's aerometer, its active power would be ren-dered so much more effective, that the mine would be immediately cleared, even in spite of the de-struction of the brattice, or of the gallery doors. The accident at the Middle Dyffryn Colliery, caused by the explosion of the gas at the exhausting furnace, was explained to have arisen, most probably, from the introduction of such a large quantity of atmospheric air as brought the air in the mine to its most explicitive condition. This most frequently occurred in new mines, and where, generally, every attention was paid to copious ventilation. Constant attention to the indications of the barometer was enforced, as the best mode of avoiding accident; and it was shown that, however well anemometers and it was shown that, however well anemometers might be constructed, it was necessary to make an allowance for friction, and to have them well compared and regulated before trusting to them. The existence of a condition of 'natural ventilation' was strongly contested. It was urged that such a state was not compatible with any security, as the difference between the columns must depend on difference between the columns must depend on the deterioration of the air in the mine, by the breath and the animal exudations of the men, and other causes; the current must become sluggish at night, when the mine was not working, the course of the ventilation might suddenly change with the direction of the wind, and all the venti-lating arrangements would be rendered of noneffect. It was contended that Government inspection, to be really useful, should be applied to giving tion, to be really useful, should be applied to giving information to the proprietors and overlookers, and observing whether the best known means were adopted for the prevention of accidents and for saving life when they did occur. All the rest might be safely left to those men, who, having embarked large capitals in the undertakings, would embrace the best methods of making their speculations weightly leaves supposing them not to be embrace the best methods of making their speculations profitable, even supposing them not to be animated by any higher object. Attention was directed to the Institute of Mining Engineers, recently established at Newcastle-on-Tyne, under the presidency of Mr. Nicholas Wood; and it was hoped that, by its means, knowledge might be more extensively spread among that valuable class, the overmen of the North, whose practical skill only required to be allied to a little more scientific browledge to render them a most useful class. knowledge, to render them a most useful class whence to draw the overmen for other districts, where there was still a lamentable deficiency of knowledge and practical skill.

ZOOLOGICAL. — Feb. 8th. — John Gould, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair. Dr. Baird communicated a paper on new species of Entozoa, contained in the national collection at the British Museum. Gray communicated a description of the mollusk Cyclina Sinensis, which he stated was drawn up, ten or twelve years ago, from a specimen presented to him by Mr. John Reeves, to whom we are in-debted for the knowledge of the greater part of the animals of China with which zoologists are as yet acquainted. The animal, in most particulars, agrees with that of the genus Dosinia, next to which Dr. Gray lately proposed to place it, in his arrangement of the genera Venerida. Mr. Adam White contributed a monograph of insects of the genus Agosoma of Serville, with the description of

Cyrtonops, a new genus allied to it, for the type of Cyrinops, a new genus anied to it, for the type of which he proposed the name of Cyrinops punctipennis. It was obtained in India. The additions to the genus £gosoma are remarkable, and five in number—viz. £gosoma sinicum, collected by Mr. Fortune, at Shanghai; £ ornaticolle, from India; E. Cingalense, from Ceylon; E. sulcipenne, collected by Mr. Packman in Tenasserim; and E. tibiale, from Northern India. The Secretary read to the meeting some extracts from Notes on the zoology of the Malay Peninsula, with which he had been supplied by Mr George Windsor Earl, whose long residence in the Indian Archipelago had given him abundant opportunities for observa-tion. Among the most remarkable animals alluded tion. Among the most remarkable animals alluded to, were two species of Wild Cattle, of immense size, to which the natives give the names of Sapi and Saladang. The Secretary exhibited, on the part of Mr. Richard Hill, corresponding member, a beautiful series of Birds' Eggs, collected by that gentleman in Jamaica, and therefore authentically named. It is greatly to be regretted that a con-siderable number were broken in their transit to this country, or during their detention at Southampton. The extreme beauty of these eggs, and the certainty with which they have been determined, give an unusual value to this donation, although Mr. Hill has ever been regarded as one of the most active and intelligent contributors to the objects of the Society, in connexion with the zoology of the great island in which he has so long resided.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Feb. 7th.—A general meeting of the members was held this day, W. Pole, Esq., F.R.S., Treasurer, in the chair, when Thomas W. Allies, Esq., J. Bell Brooking, Esq., John Forster, Esq., F.L.S., John Henderson, Esq., and Thomson Hankey, Esq., were elected members. Thanks were voted to Professors Faraday and Williamson, and to the Astronomer-Royal, for their Discourses on Jan. 21st and 28th, and Feb. 4th, abstracts of which will shortly be issued to the members.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.— Royal Institution, 4p.m.— (Dr. A.W. Hoffmann, on Organic Chemistry.)

Geographical, 8½ p.m.—(1. Abstract of Letters received from Mr. Ladislaus Magyar, dated April 20th, 1851, Sah-Quilem, on the River Kaszabi, in the kingdom of Kalunda, in Central Africa, S. lat. 4° 41′, and E. long. 23° 43′—communicated by Dr. H. Rónay; 2. Mr. R. W. Plant, of Natal, Journey along the Coast of S.E. Africa—communicated by J. E. Gray, Esq., of the British Museum; 3. Dr. Thompson, Remarks on the Country between Seleucia, the Valley of the Orontes, Antioch, and Apimere, to Belás, on the Euphrates—communicated by the President; and a Notice on the Comparative Advantages between Constructing a Railway to the Fersian Gulf and rendering Navigable the Euphrates Kiver—communicated through the Ordanaeo Ollice; 4. Captain W. Comparative Advantages between Constructing a Railway to the Persian Gulf and rendering Navigable the Euphrates River—communicated through the Ordnance Office; 4. Captain W. Allen, R.N., F.R.G.S., Note on the Watershed of the Wadi el Arabá.)

London Institution, 7p.m.—(Dr. Lyon Playfair, on Industry and Science)

School of Mines.—(Natural History, 1 p.m.)—(Mining, 3 p.m.)

Tuesday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Thomas Wharton Jones, Esq., F.R.S., on Animal Physiology.)

Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Mr. C. B. Cheverton, on the use of Hented Air as a Motive Power.)

Pathological, 8 p.m.

Horticultural, 2 p.m.—(Camellias, shown in threes, in pots not exceeding 15 inches in inside diameter; Table Pears, as in October; Lettuces, shown in sixes.)

School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.)

Wednesday.—Royal Institution, 4 p.m.—(Dr. A. W. Hoffmann, on Organic Chemistry.)

Society of Arts, 8 p.m.

London Institution, 7 p.m.—(Conversazione.)

Microscopical, 8 p.m.—(Anniversary.)

School of Mines.—(Chetallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Mine, 3 p.m.)

Thursday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(John Phillips, Esq., F.R.S., on the General Principles of Geology.)

Royal, 8 p.m.

Antiquaries, 8 p.m.

Harveian, 8 p.m.

School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Mines.)

Geology, 1 p.m.)—(Giology, 3 p.m.)

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- Friday.—Royal Institution, 8\(\frac{1}{2}\) p.m.— (Professor G. G. Stokes, on the Change of Refrangibility of Light, and the exhibition thereby of the Chemical Rays.)
- Light, and the exhibition thereby of the Che-mical Rays.)
 School of Mines.—(Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Na-tural History, 1 p.m.)—(Mining, 3 p.m.)
 —Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Professor William-son, on the Philosophy of Chemistry.)
 Medical, 8 p.m.—(George B. Greenough, Esq., on the Physical and Geological Structure of India.)

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

WE fear there can be only one opinion as to the eneral effect of this year's Exhibition of the British Institution. It must, we regret to say, be pronounced on the whole a very inferior one. Not only are works of the first class wanting, but among those of the second rank, even where the execution is good, the subject is too often of an insignificant and trivial character, so that high art in any sense is scarcely to be met with. The number of figure subjects is extremely small; and among the rest, originality and novelty have not entered largely into the compositions. Not but that amid a multitude of studies and sketches, of old effects reproduced, and mannerisms repeated, there is not the average amount of success, but few indeed are the subjects where the chains of old habit have been broken through, and a higher path struck out. Those who remember former exhibitions, and are familiar with the artists' powers, will agree that this year's deficiency is only too prominent. Whether the cause be merely accidental, or these walls have been comparatively deserted for the more popular attractions of the Academy, it is certain that the manifest advance which was noticed with pleasure last year has not been main-It is not then amongst the best names that the interest of this exhibition lies, but with the works of the younger artists, among whom are many excellent things, and perhaps a diminished number of positively bad pictures. One thing we miss, a pre-Raffaellite vagary or two, to stimulate the flagging taste, and let us know the pleasures of wholesome painting by contrast.

The number of pictures altogether is 569, with 20 specimens of sculpture and casts, showing no diminution in point of quantity. The exhibiting Academicians are seven in number; the Associate four; and from the Hibernian and Scottish academies a few members have sent specimens.

Mr. Clarkson Stanfield's View of Dort (1) has obtained the prominence due to his reputation, and, we may add, to its own merits. Being manifestly a study which is intended to suggest the manifold productions of this scene by Cuyp, the spectator is led mentally to bring the two styles into comparison, and to observe that the rich tone. broad handling, and full aerial effects of the Dutch artist, have not been reproduced so powerfully; but the scene is drawn with perhaps as great care, and with even more varied detail. The expedients of colour in the modern painting are far more arti-ficial, and perhaps trivial, than the firm masses and free natural dispositions of the elder artist; and in the arrangement to produce distance, where the eye is carried on from the distant wharfs and ships, by means of the jetty in the middle of the stream, the floating spar, the buoy, and the boats and figures, up to the raft in the foreground, Mr. Stanfield has shown more skill in the mechanism of art than in rendering a feeling of nature. We would not, however, underrate the excellences of a picture which, in its fulness without crowd, its complex forms yet simple groups, its art associa-tions, and the beautiful effects of its middle and far distances, must yield much pleasure, though it be scarcely an adequate specimen of the artist's powers.

Mr. Uwins, another R.A., contributes one head La Contadina (36), which will encounter varied criticism, but appears to us to combine many ex-cellences in a classical construction, which is often to be noticed at the foundation of this artist's productions, its firm full painting, and impressiveness without obtrusiveness of expression.

Mr. Lee's landscape, Benmore, with the Town of Killin, Loch Tay (60), though large and elaborate, carries a melancholy and unhappy feeling with it, which can only represent rightly some unfavourable aspect of nature. The scene looks as if it had lately been drenched with rain, and is gloomy without being majestic. The dark, almost black shades, particularly at the angle of the promontory jutting into the lake, contribute much to this result; the vegetation also on the slope of the opposite hill seems scarcely to belong to it; it does not fit closely to its parent soil. The green leaves and glancing sunlight of Mr. Lee's southern scenery are far preferable to this.

Of Mr. Cooper's Cutting off the Retreat (118), we have only to observe, that it is like everything else of the kind that he has so often painted, whilst of Mr. Pickersgill's pair of portraits, The Archer (53), and A Lady Hawking (65), we cannot speak with-out expressing regret that the wretched taste of our species in modern times should have ever allowed them not merely to disfigure them-selves with barbarous dresses that don't suit them. and they evidently have not the feeling to wear gracefully, but, further, to get an Academician to

paint them accordingly.

Turning to the Associates, we observe a charming group called *The Tired Gleaners* (113), of perhaps rather uniform colour, and wanting a lively relief, but in expression and narrative thoroughly English, and endearing to the spectator at the first glance. It is by Mr. F. Goodall, an artist of rising and deserved celebrity.

Mr. Cooke has sent two Venetian scenes (4 and

151), and a Dutch group (136). The two former are beautifully painted, particularly as to the sky of the latter (151). We have before noticed the shallowness of the water in which Mr. Cooke's vessels appear to float : and the same remark is again upon us in this instance. The remaining picture, called Dutch Pinks off Katwyk (136), is even superior to the others in the firmness and yet smallness of handling, which is emulative of the Haarlem school, and historically appropriate to the subject. The eye is unfortunately distracted by the ugly sprays of colour and rude painting on the stern of the 'Pink,' too faithfully rendered by the artist, who has also christened his favourite the Van Kook' of 'Katwyk.

Mr. Frost's single painting, The Cool Retreat (18), is drawn with much care, and if somewhat defective in parts of the figure, yet presents an agreeable set of curves, and generally beautiful outline.

e very antipodes to this style is to be seen in Mr. Hollins's groups, which are less degraded than before in the choice of subject, and accordingly more agreeable. The Fisherman (208) is characteristic, but a sketch only; the group, Fish-sellers (359), is more deliberate, though here even the background, which has been supplied ad libitum, is loose and unfinished. The painting, however, of the figures is clear and firm, though the attitude of the sisters is evidently that of constrained stillness; and much of the effect is lost by inattention to the small details of dress and other objects, as buttons, folds, &c., which the eye misses, though perhaps would not notice if inserted.

A crowd of names follow immediately in the first rank of those below the Academy and its branches, out of which it is difficult to select. Mr. Sant displays, as before, the variety of an enterprising cultivation of the art, and the fire of an original genius that infallibly strikes the imagination, in all that he does. His two pictures are conceived in very different strains, without a trace of man-nerism, of weariness, or of repetition. She never told her love (175), is the half-length figure of a beautiful female who gazes on a gold medallion in her right hand, with an expression of rapt and silent passion. Yet, strange to say, it is not the expression, so much as the extraordinary boldness and force of the lines, and the brilliant arrangement of the blue dress and purple hood with red and gold fringe, that fixes the attention so strongly in this picture. We could have wished the hands a trifle fairer, and the droop of the left eyelid a very little less. So in the other group of a mother and her child (146),

the expression is far from being demonstrative, nor does it appeal overtly to the spectator, and yet we doubt if its effect is less powerful. The study is a peculiar one, consisting almost wholly of pink, al. most red flesh, and a quantity of white, snowy lace and linen, with little or no gradations of colour. The neck has an ugly curve behind, nor do we think the chiaroscuro perfect, in giving a thoroughly round form to the group: yet its power is acknow-ledged, and must reside in the incommunicable

magic of the painter's touch.

Mr. Hering has contributed amongst his pictures one which affords the greatest approach to the old masters in colouring, as applied to landscape, than perhaps any in the exhibition. Borrowdale (180) is not only a very grand and solemn subject, but it is wrought up with a breadth and gradation, and at the same time a splendour and richness of tints, which promise the greatest results if this style be persevered in. The deadness and coldness of the unillumined air on the lake's surface is admirable. and the rich breaking away of tints as the eye ascends to the light and brilliant peaks upon which the sun falls above, would be perfect, were it not for the pink streaks on the left, reflected below, which mar the else grand harmony of the piece. A picture in this old school, though partaking of its darker manner, is to be seen in the Clearing off of a Storm (162), designed in 1796, and representing the Campagna of Rome and the Albano mountains, by R. R. Reinagle. The recollections of Both on the left side must occur to every one; and the origin of the composed style, which was taken up shortly after the above date by Wilson, is apparent; but whilst the design is striking and bold, the uniformity of the iron-red tone, though romantic, is not natural. Gainsborough had pre-ceded with his grand scales of colour, from gay sunlight to sober shade; and might have taught a different lesson.

Mr. Ansdell is one of those contributors whose works show an advance rather than a decline of skill. Lytham Common, Lancashire (41), gives a group of sheep and donkeys, which was never sur-passed for force of delineation. The young donkey's intelligent head is a marvel of clear painting, and parts of the kindred animals, and the wool of the sheep, are equally irreproachable. In Sheep gathering, Isle of Skye (141), the effect is not so pleasing, from an abrupt arrangement of subject, intended doubtless to convey the idea of a steep and rugged hill-side; but the sheep and dog are too near. The same excellent manipulation is perceptible.

A prominent place is occupied by Mr. Buckner's Organ Boy (17); but is not the imposing and almost theatrical attitude of the main figure thrown away upon such a subject? Why do we have organ boys with features of faultless Italian beauty, and poetically 'raven' locks, when we know that the dignity of such an ideal does not belong to them as a class, and the only associations we have with them, are the misery and tyranny they suffer, and the life of vagabondism they lead? The case may be different indeed with Agostino delli Monti (396), but here the same strained expression of face, and hair unshorn, gives to the ead an air that is foppish instead of noble, dissolute rather than attractive, such as ill becomes the bearer, whoever he may be, of a noble and a poetical name. Velasquez did not paint thus, nor Vandyke. And let not this remark seem impertinent in the case of such an artist as Mr. Buckner, for in the presence of particle if and of suiters. for in the presence of peculiar, if not of eminent powers, it is grievous to see an effect ruined, through an exuberance of uncurbed licence, which, if properly restrained, would sober down into great

A large and carefully studied composition from Macbeth (259), by H. C. Selous, is of importance enough to attract every eye, and deserves much consideration for the evident pains of its contention of the contention of the content o struction and the care of its painting in many details. The style of Maclise has been wonderfully caught and preserved, and no one can deny to it merits of vigorous painting, and most illusive textive rendering. The mingling and contrast of

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light, again, has been well studied; costumes and architecture have been looked to; Duncan's head is reverently crowned with hair only too silvery: the murderer's face is a sight to look upon ;the murderer's face is a sight to look upon;—but the true life of the scene is wanting. The exhibition of force, or rather of effect, in the painting, deserves our acknowledgments; but it does not succeed in touching our emotions. It is rather theatrical, and not life-like. The king, moreover, would scarcely have slept in such a position. But further remarks are not needed; the merits and the faults in such a subjective strike are evident. the faults, in such an objective style, are evident to all; yet, while the careless who despise a com-position that attempts to arouse their feelings and fails, can see in it no other excellences, a more indicious observer will probably discover not a few secondary points of interest, though the greatest of

all be wanting.

Mr. Linnell's two pictures are very far from being fairly representative of him. The Wold of Kent (145) is apparently a mere study of sky, as every other part of the picture has been neglected, whilst the former has been elaborated into the characteristic fleecy clouds and cirro-stratus behind them, mingled with blue, such as may well be their character during a hot, sultry day in summer. Shallow Rivers (417) is a small painting of no

great importance.

The contributions of the Williams's have been

The contributions of the Williams's have been numerous, and generally in the style with which every one is so familiar amongst them. To enter upon a due discussion of this numerous band of artists is somewhat difficult, as certain initials generally form the reader's only guide. The Views on the river Loddom (382 and 502), by H. J. Boddington, we may point to as very careful and exquisite specimens, still in the style we have been accustomed to, but of great excellence. A Nook on the Thames (89) is almost equally good, though of rather less dimensions. Mr. Sidney R. Percy shows peculiar care in A Welsh Farm (28), though it is open to the objection of a somewhat glassy shows peculiar care in A Wetsh Farm (28), though it is open to the objection of a somewhat glassy atmosphere; equally hard is the outline of the distant hill, due possibly to a peculiar, certainly not a normal condition of air; the wool of the sheep rather resembling the hair of goats, a profusion of the same sort of grass in the foreground, and a blackness in the shadows of the trees, are imperfections but do not take this out of the reals. imperfections, but do not take this out of the rank of a clever and advanced painting, where the play of sunlight and shade in the central part is particularly effective. A Scene on the Thames (82), by A. Gilbert, also arrests immediate attention for its tilbert, also arrests immediate attention for its pleasing arrangement of subject; the perfect freedom and natural ease of the scene only giving way a little towards the left bank of the river, which is wanting in interest. A Scene on the Loddon (91), and A Calm Night (176), are by the same artist. Llyn Llydau, North Wates (11), by A. W. Williams, is a large view, where the glassiness of the water is too ice-like; a remark which applies more strongly to A River Side (312), by T. applies more strongly to A River Side (312), by T. Danby. The water in this view, by the use of particular varnish, has perfectly the appearance of reflection, which, though curious, takes off from the pictorial effect; and not disadvantageously, as faras the figure is concerned—a plain and ill-lighted female who is crossing the brook at a ford. G. A. Williams. In four pictures, adheres to the view side iemane who is crossing the brook at a lord. G. A. Williams, in four pictures, adheres to the river side seenery of the Thames: W. Williams to that of the Exe; and numerous others of the name are dispersed throughout the rooms in various degrees

of proficiency.

We conclude this week's notice with a mention

We have the Bisagno, of Mr. Holland's works. The Mouth of the Bisagno, Genoa (346), though inferior to the picture of the same class in last year's exhibition, has yet the merits of remarkable truth in some points of colour. The treatment of the buildings and of the clive trees is remarkably good; but the sea has been taken some freedom with; the waves ripple in rather stiff curves; whilst the calm of still water in the adjoining little bay is too perfect to be natural. And why should the foreground be marred

water somewhere near-the Genoa of last year was water somewhere hear—the Genoa or last year was spoilt by a similar intrusion. The Port of Genoa (19) by moonlight is a ghastly unreal scene, treated in a dashing impasto style, too hasty to be representative of any deliberate ideas. Venice (10) also, is in a broad, hasty style, which as to colour, is attractive and rich, but in drawing scorns the usual conventionalities of delineation. The Salmon Trap, Glyn Lleddr (292), makes pretensions to a fine picture; the boldness of the artist's hand being conspicuous, and the colour again rich and true. But the figure is not good, and the water breaking through the dyke is imperfectly represented. Were the figure-drawing in these studies of equal merit with the colour, they would rank high among the art productions of their particular class.

"Some time ago," says a letter from Berlin, "Cornelius, our great painter, received a letter from a young soldier who had just been incorporated in the royal guard, complaining that being obliged to serve three years in the army, his career as an artist would be completely ruined, and accompanying the letter was a deaving expected by him. In this the letter was a drawing executed by him. In this work, M. Cornelius recognised considerable talent, and he took an opportunity of laying it and the letter before the King, requesting his Majesty's protection for the young man. The King expressed regret that as the law in Prussia allows no exemption from military service to any one, he could not order the discharge of an artist of so much promise: but he kindly directed that his time of service should be reduced from three years to one." The same letter informs us that Cornelius is engaged in executing the contours (the designs of which have already been published) for the Royal Campo Santo; and that Kaulbach has terminated the fourth of the six large frescoes which he was commissioned to paint for the New Museum at Berlin:—it represents the entrance of Godefroy de Bouillon into Jerusalem.

MUSIC.

THE SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY'S performances of Mendelssohn's Lobyesung and Mozart's Requiem, on Wednesday evening, was a most successful event. The 'Hymn of Praise' was composed for the event. The 'Hymn of Praise' was composed for the Gutenberg festival, in honour of the invention of printing, and was first performed at Leipsic in 1839. In 1841 it was produced at Birmingham under the direction of Mendelssohn. Since then it has occasionally been heard at the Philharmonic and Sacred Harmonic Societies, and latterly has because the understood and appreciated by mose begun to be understood and appreciated by more general audiences. Under Mr. Costa's direction, it was heard with grandest effect at Exeter Hall. The instrumental movements were admirably ex-The instrumental movements were admirably executed, and the choruses were given in the finest style. The Requiem of Mozart was performed with equally grand effect. It was the first time of its being publicly produced by the society, and the impression made upon the audience will secure its forming part of future performances. The vocal solos were taken by Miss L. Pyne and Miss M. Williams, Mr. Lockey and Mr. Lawler. Mr. Costa, and all associated with him, deserve high praise for the style in which this great work of Mozart has been brought out, and the whole performance of the evening was most creditable to the resources and arrangements of the Sacred Harmonic Society. and arrangements of the Sacred Harmonic Society.

Mr. Allcroff's second concert came off at the 'Lyceum Theatre' on the same evening, as great a crowd attending as that which on the previous oc-casion at Exeter Hall caused the announcement of the entertainment being repeated. Rarely have the lovers of music had opportunity of hearing on one evening such a variety and amount of musical talent. There were about half-a-hundred pieces on talent. There were about half-a-hundred pieces on the programme, and almost all the best singers now in London, with several eminent instrumentalists. Madame Pleyel performed with the usual brilliancy Liszt's pianoforte illustrations of the Prophète, and Thalberg's Tarantelle. Herr Nubich with his trombone, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hardy, and other solicits, performed foxyonity nieces and by the introduction of what is nothing but a mass of rags? a hospital-pensioner's coat apparently, and other soloists, performed favourite pieces, and among the vocalists were Mesdames Fiorentini,

Sims Reeves, Marie Doria, F. Lablache; Misses Dolby, Fitzwilliam, Isaacs; Messrs. Sims Reeves, Weiss, Leffler. The pieces were such as are ge-

Weiss, Leffler. The pieces were such as are generally popular at mixed concerts.

The first of Mr. Lindbay Sloper's Soirees of Chamber Music was given on Thursday evening, in the New Beethoven Rooms, 27, Queen Annestreet. The programme, as usual in Mr. Sloper's concerts, contained selections of the highest style and severest taste of classical music. Beethoven's sonata solo in G, Op. 29, and Mendelssohn's andante later with varieties Op. 83, and Humpul's trie duet with variations, Op. 83, and Hummel's trio in E flat, were the prominent pieces. Mendelssohn's duet was heard to greatest advantage, Mr. Sloper being assisted by Herr Pauer. The parts in the trio were taken by M. Jausa, violin, and M. Rousselot, violoncello. A selection of the pianist's own composition, Canzona Napolitana, a 'Waltz,' and a 'Hunting Song,' three romances by Mr. Benedick, entitled 'Evening Thoughts,' and two by Ernst, and Stephen Heller's Pensées Fugitives, in which M. Jausa took the violin accompaniment, made up the programme of instrumental music. The con-cert was relieved by vocal music from Miss Dolby, Miss Amy Dolby, and Miss K. Fitzwilliam; Signor Miss Amy Dolby, and Miss K. Fitzwilliam; Signor Biletta, accompanyist. Mr. Sloper's own performances were in his best style, and the general arrangements of the evening were such as to sustain the high reputation which these soirées have during four previous seasons acquired. The next soirée is on the 24th February.

The NEW PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY have announced the opening of their concerts for the season, at Exeter Hall, on the 16th March. Dr. Spohr is expected as conductor during part of the season.

At Exerer Hall, the following performances are announced:—On the 18th, the Sacred Harmonic Society, Handel's Judas Maccabeus. On the 21st, The Harmonic Union, Handel's Messiah. On the 2nd March, London Sacred Harmonic, Haydn's Creation.

Professor Lowel Mason, author of the Carmina Sacra, is at present in London, and has been organizing a singing association for sacred music in the Weigh House Chapel (Rev. T. Binney's), in the

Our budget of musical news from Paris is rather large this week. At the Italian Theatre Don Gioranni has been again brought forward, with Belletti as the wicked Don in the room of Montemerli. The change is decidedly for the better; and as, besides, the other performers and the orchestra as, besides, the other performers and the orenestra have vastly improved by repeated rehearsals, the opera now passes off with great *éclat*,—though it still contrasts unfavourably with what it was when Tamburini and Lablache figured in it. The new management appears laudably anxious to obtain success; but it does not take the readiest means of success; but it does not take the readlest means of deserving it—strengthening its troupe. Mdlle. Cruvelli is the only prima donna, and though she be a host in herself, the public would not be sorry to see another face, and hear another voice, occasionally; nor could she regret having more time for study and practice. We see that the director, M. Corti, is already at loggerheads with her—he having a peach to a cation against her for having a having brought an action against her for having, a short time back, refused to sing, on the pretext that she was ill when she was not ill—and she having brought an action against him to compel him to deposit with a banker 3000l. as her salary him to deposit with a banker 3000l. as her salary for the next three months. Between M. Cort and M. Montemerli, also, legal hostilities have been commenced—the latter complaining of breach of agreement in being abruptly dismissed after his break-down as Don Giovanni. Squabblings between managers and performers never tend to the prosperity of a theatre; and they are calculated to be peculiarly injurious to the Italian in its present situation. sent situation

sent situation.

The Grand Opera has brought out Verdi's Luisat Miller, with a very different French version of the libretto. The same opera, it will be remembered, was recently performed by the Italian company at Paris; and it is difficult to see what either house hopes to gain by thus entering into direct com-

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petition. Madame Bosio made her début in it at the Grand Opera, and was highly successful. Her voice is a powerful soprano, and she is an accomplished musician. The morceaux in which she was most admired were the airs in the first and second acts, and a duo with Morelli. Morelli also sang admirably, and Gueymard and Mdlle. Masson gave satisfaction. The choruses might have been better. On the whole, notwithstanding the success of Madame Bosio, the general execution did not create so great an effect as at the Italians.

The indefatigable Adolphe Adam has produced at the Opera Comique, a musical adaptation of Desforge's well-known farce, Le Sourd: ou, l'Au-berge Plein. He has introduced many popular airs, which have been sung in the streets, and ground on hurdy-gurdies for years past, but which still possess the power of pleasing. His original bits in the adaptation are of no great pretensions, but are meritorious. On the whole, the music is worthy of the farce—that is to say, so farcical as to create a broad grin on every face. At the same theatre, M. Victor Massé has had presented a little opera in one act, called Les Noces de Jeannette. It is lively, sparkling, and elegant, as an opéra comique should be. In plot and dialogue, too, it is more Couderc spirituel than comic operas often are. and Mdlle. Miolan are the supporters of it, and

they both sing charmingly.
Our Paris letters say that Meyerbeer's longtalked of new grand opera is to be brought out in the autumn; but as the great maestro always requires his monde, choral and instrumental, to undergo an enormous amount of drilling, it will probably not be produced before the winter, perhaps, even the spring. The grippe, it seems, has taken the Grand Opera en grippe, as, after having caused the delay of Luisa Miller for some weeks, by attacking first one performer and then another, it has within the last few days placed hors de combat nearly all the principal cantatrices, and has, consequently, necessitated the production of worn-out operas, with worn-out, or, at least, second or third-rate singers. We learn too that a "grand concours" of the different choral and musical societies of France will take place in Paris on the 12th of June, and that foreign societies or schools, provided they be represented by at least fifty executants, will be allowed to take part in it. The "concours" will consist of different trials of skill, and the victor will obtain a gold medal. The object of it is represented to be to promote the writing, and serious study of musical reading and to spread a love of music amongst the masses. The judges will be thirty-one composers or executants, and amongst them will be Meyerbeer, Vieuxtemps, Hiller, and Elwart; whilst the presidents will be Berlioz and Reber.

Accounts from Rome announce the production of another new opera by Verdi. It is called Ill Trovatore. It was applauded with the wildest enthusiasm: in the course of it Verdi was called for not fewer than fifteen times! The first, third, and fourth acts are described as of remarkable power, and as studded with brilliant moreaux; the second act is the weakest. At Naples a new opera by Mercadante, entitled Violetta, has been produced, also with striking success.

THE DRAMA.

SINCE the opening night of the French Plays at the St. James's Theatre, M. Ravel has performed three additional characters, one in a piece by which he is, perhaps, best known here, representation of the principal part of L'Etourneau was one of those that excited most attention during his former visit to London. The piece itself was, moreover, adapted at the Haymarket, under the name of the *Irish Post*. This version, however, wanted the almost tragic interest with which at the close, M. Ravel invests the poor wretch, who, through three acts, is pursuing a letter that he imagined he has wrongly posted, but which he finds, at the conclusion of the piece, safe in his pocket. It is a wonderful performance, but over-

wrought. The second character in which the comedian appeared was one in which the comparison with Mr. Charles Mathews, that is invariably suggested, is more particularly made, for both have played the same character—the Tambour Battant of the Palais Royal being the Taking by Storm of the Lyceum. With all M. Ravel's greater breadth, and that power of occasional pathos which, in Mr. C. Mathews, is entirely wanting, the comparison is not altogether against our own actor; and the adaptation is decidedly better than the original piece, in which, however, the somewhat coarse sketch of the waiting-maid is neither so broadly conceived nor so oppressively acted as it was at the Lyceum. In the third novelty, Le Chevalier des Dames, produced on Monday evening, and which is a novelty in Paris as well as here, the part played by Ravel is a sort of Don Quixote, a gentleman who goes about redressing the wrongs, or what he conceives to be the wrongs, of the fair He is introduced to us, apologizing to a lady whom he has compelled to return to her own home, by splashing her dress with mud. Discovering that she has a husband jealously inclined, he resolves to remain and free her from such an annoyance; is compelled to assume a spare livery, excites the husband's suspicions, and discovers that the lady whose cause he is espousing is the very one of whose imprudent correspondence he has chivalrously obtained possession. The letters are in a pocket-book in the pocket of the coat he has thrown down to assume the livery,—this is put on in mistake by husband, who is persuaded by his supposed ser-vant to exchange it for another; the *Chevalier des* Dames thus again obtains possession of the letters only to have the pocket-book snatched from him by the husband, who of course presumes it to be his, and locks it up in a small box. This the Chevalier first sends to have broken open, and failing in that, puts it on the fire, when he discovers that it contains a large sum of money in bank notes. Rather than compromise the lady, he subjects himself to the suspicion of theft. The fire, however, is out, the suspicion of theft. The fire, however, is out, the box safe, and the Chevalier des Dames is content to have benefited a lady. It is impossible to con-ceive anything more amusing than the mixture of simplicity, pertinacity, good feeling, and whim-sicality, with which, in M. Ravel's hands, this character abounds. Every incident is a fresh oc-casion for some scintillation of fun or absurdity, and yet the sympathies of the audience are continually exerted in favour of the good-natured meddler, and obtrusive preux chevalier.

The plot of a new farce, called To Paris and

Back for Five Pounds, produced at the HAYMARKET, on Saturday evening last, has very little to do with the title, a Paris excursion-train which stops at Tonbridge, being merely the occasion of the incidents upon which the plot is founded, and not the cause of them. The opening with a well-set scene of a Kentish landscape, an electric-telegraph station on one side, and a railway hotel on the other, promises better than the farce, in its progress, per forms. The plot is slight; a cockney of the usual farce class, assumes the name (Markham) of a gentleman whom he believes, from a memorandum in a pocket-book, to have committed suicide. in order to carry on an adventure with greater éclat than he could under his own unromantic patronymic of Snozzle. Mr. Markham however, has merely written the memorandum to throw off the scent a detective who is in pursuit of him on account of a duel, and the contretemps arising from this situation form the basis of an amusing farce, although in their character they are somewhat timeworn, and the various chaers commit misunderstandings with marvellous pertinacity. Indeed the piece owes more to Mr. Buckstone's whimsical development of the character of Snozzle, and to his extracting, by the force of his humour, fun from incidents in themselves, as we have said, not over new or probable, than to its intrinsic merits. In spite of its faults, however, the piece was thoroughly successful, and the laughwith which it was greeted from beginning to end, showed that the audience, if not critical were what author, actors, and managers must prefer—exceedingly well amused. The characters, except

Mr. Buckstone's Snozzle, and a trifling part of a waiter, played with humour by Mr. Clarke were not such as to call for any special talent on the part of the performers. A portion of the dialogue s rather broader than we are accustomed to hear at this theatre, and might be a little refined without

prejudice to the joke.

The attraction of the Christmas entertainment has at last begun to fade, and the various theatres are now showing as great signs of activity as will probably be manifested before Easter. To-night at the Haymarket Sir Bulwer Lytton's comedy of Not so Bad as We Seem will have to stand the test of a miscellaneous audience—a real public. On Monday Macbeth will be revived at the Princes's A drama founded on Casimir Delavigne's Louis Onze is to come out at Drury Lane; and for the same evening a new farce is announced at the Olympic. At the Lyceum the Spectacle continues

Parisian managers appear to have thought that, as the Carnival public was sufficient to fill their houses, it was useless to produce novelties; and so with the exception of a brace of *Uncle Toms*, a yaudeville or two of no great originality, and a farce or two at the Palais Royal, utterly contemptible in a literary point of view, but amusing withal, there has been nothing of interest done in the theatres of Paris for the last fortnight or more. Now, however, that the Carnival people have spent all their money, and that more exacting Lent auditories must be attracted, we shall have, no doubt, new productions en masse from the majestic five acts in verse down to the little proverbe in sprightly The pieces which appear likely to excite prose. most interest are Madame de Girardin's Lady Turtufe, or The Prude, and Ponsard's comedy. In the former Rachel is to appear. The censorship objected to certain portions of the play and certain jokes; but, like a brace of Cromwells, the two ladies "stood no nonsense," and appealed—of course with success—to the censorship's masters.

VARIETIES.

Cromwell's Head .- It seems to me no more remarkable that the sign of Cromwell should not be in existence, than that we should find no Georges or Williams, or at least very few, and those in remote places, their effigies having in several in-stances been succeeded by that of our present Queen; but perhaps the writer in 'Eliza' Journal' is not aware that the sign of Richard Cromwell has been by no means uncommon. He probably succeeded to his father on the signboards, and after his deposition figured as 'Tumble down Dick,' his well-known nickname. This sign might in my recollection be seen in the narrow part of High-street, Southwark, before the erection of the present London-bridge. I will in addition to this add a query. Why is it that we more frequently see Queen's Heads and King's Heads than entire Queens and Kings? Did they come into fashion in the days of Henry VIII. and of Cromwell? The Saracen's Head is the only other sign of the kind I remember to have seen as a common one. This, in its original shape, was a gory head cut off from the body, and very unlike the stalwart-looking Bluebeard to be seen on Snow

Scarboro', Feb. 2.

Architectural Medals of the Ancients.—The members of the Royal Institute of British Architects are no doubt much obliged to Mr. Donaldson, , for his lecture on the Architectural Medals of Greece and Rome; but surely, with an experienced medallist like Mr. W. Richard Hamilton in the room, it was a bold thing to say on the authority of Erizzo, by whom he was "medal-bitten thirty-six years ago," that the prow of a vessel would appear to have been the more ordinary device of the coppers at the time of Hadrian. But Mr. Hamilton we gentlement or well as a scholar Mr. Hamilton is a gentleman as well as a scholar and a numismatist, and therefore, doubtless in courtesy, forbore to remind Mr. Donaldson that the author to whom we are indebted for the fact . 12

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on that he fact that the Roman boys tossed up their "coppers" and cried "head or ship," is Macrobius, who flourished in the decline of the empire, more than a couple of centuries later than Hadrian. The pas sage has been so often quoted in all recent numissage has been so often quoted in all recent numismatic works, that I am surprised a 'Professor' should adopt so loose a style of citation. Mr. Donaldson may have been 'medal-bitten' forty years ago, but it is evident the virus of numismatics did not 'take,' as the nurses say. This lecture, of which an abstract has received Mr. Donaldson's properties of the properties of in which an abstract has been accounted in the more imprimatur, is now in circulation. I know not what service it may render to architects, it excited the wonder of—

A NUMISMATIST.

the wonder of—

Death of Mr. William Bonnar, R.S.A.—The 'Edinburgh Scotsman' announces the death of Mr. Bonnar, who was a resident portrait and historical and characteristic painter. The deceased was a native of Edinburgh, and was born in June, 1800. His father was a house-painter of considerable skill, and he himself was apprenticed to one of the skii, and he limited was apprenticed to the other in the distribution of the time, in whose establishment he ultimately officiated as foreman. In 1824 his picture of *The Tinkers*, exhibited in Waterloo-place, established him as a favourite with the public, and on the formation of the Scottish Academy he was elected an academi-cian. Mr. Bonnar, adds the 'Scotsman,' has left behind him many fine pictures, and a number of them have been engraved, the engravings enjoying

them have been engraved, the engravings enjoying extensive popularity. The Wellington Funeral Car.—In answer to a printed paper of "questions" submitted to us, "to be answered for public satisfaction," we are able to say, that the Car is being completed under the directions of Messrs. Banting. It required to be wholly refitted, in order to be preserved; and "its final resting place" is to be at the Tower of London, among the other national relics, where, doubtless, in due time, some very amusing stories will be told of it by our friend the "beef-eater." Its appropriation was decided by the Lord Chamberlain."—Builder.

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T. L.—A Country Curate.—F. S. A.—received.

Mrs. Gore's note is answered under our head of 'Topics.'

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